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First coordination and management meeting

Summary record of the 18th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 19 April 2017, at 10 a.m.

President: Ms. Chatardová (Vice-President) (Czechia)

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In the absence of Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Ms. Chatardová (Czechia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (continued) (E/2017/L.14)

Agenda item 12: Coordination, programme and other questions

(d) Long-term programme of support for Haiti (E/2017/49)

Draft decision E/2017/L.14: Appointment of an additional member of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

1. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council), read out a statement of programme budget implications in connection with draft decision E/2017/L.14 in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council. Recalling a number of relevant resolutions and having considered the letter dated 20 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Belize to the United Nations, were the Council to decide to appoint the Permanent Representative as an additional member of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, the support to be provided to the additional member of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group in 2017 would amount to \$2,500, consisting of airfare, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses related to travel for scheduled missions. The Secretary-General had advised that those requirements would be met within the resources approved under section 9 of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017. Accordingly, no additional appropriation would be required.

2. **Mr. Blanchard** (Observer for Canada), introducing draft decision E/2017/L.14, said that the request to appoint Belize as an additional member of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti had been supported by every member of the Group. As a regional partner with a long-standing commitment to the economic, social and political development of Haiti, Belize would make a positive contribution to the Group's work.

3. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Trinidad and Tobago had joined the sponsors of the draft decision.

4. *Draft decision E/2017/L.14 was adopted.*

Agenda item 17: Non-governmental organizations (E/2017/32 (Part I)*, E/2017/L.16 and E/2017/L.17)

5. **Ms. Amadeo** (United States of America) said that civil society should be given a voice to participate in the United Nations system through the accreditation process overseen by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. As Governments should not be all things to all people, optimal outcomes would be achieved only with the help of civil society partners. Regardless of their views, civil society representatives should have a voice, thereby reflecting the plurality of voices that constituted the foundation of a free society. She expressed concern at the systematic action taken by some Governments to suppress the legitimate activities of civil society and, in particular, human-rights defenders, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and journalists. Even more disturbingly, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations appeared to be following suit, having voted to ignore a Council resolution that stipulated that the NGO concerned should be given written reasons for a decision to recommend suspension or withdrawal of status, and even failing to notify organizations of their suspension and to give them an opportunity to respond. Her delegation hoped to ensure that the Committee would abide by the rules and procedures of its parent body. She expressed support for draft decision E/2017/L.16 on granting Christian Solidarity Worldwide consultative status and E/2017/L.17 on webcasting the proceedings of the Committee, which remained the sole subsidiary body of the Council not to do so. Webcasting would bring much-needed transparency to the Committee's accreditation process and benefit those representatives of NGOs unable to attend meetings on location and the Organization as a whole, given the vital nature of NGO support for the United Nations.

6. **Mr. Jürgenson** (Estonia), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that the Council's scrutiny of the work of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations was an important safeguard and should encompass the manner in which the Committee discharged its functions, including compliance with Council resolution 1996/31, which set forth the rules governing the granting of consultative status to NGOs. The Committee was responsible for determining whether the work of an organization fell within the Council's competence and whether its aims and purposes were in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations. By any measure, the Committee was falling short in the discharge of its duties, having rejected a significant number of NGO applications on spurious or politically motivated grounds at its most

recent session. After diligently responding to over 80 questions concerning its activities, the respected organization Christian Solidarity Worldwide had had its application for consultative status rejected in 14 Committee sessions over seven years. He called upon the Council to redress that wrong by taking a decision to grant the organization consultative status.

7. The Committee's practice of holding votes to override established rules on an ad hoc basis undermined key principles and safeguards established by the Council and gave cause for concern, as did the aversion of some Committee members to improved transparency. It was all the more important that a body charged with deliberating over the presence of civil society at the United Nations was itself seen to be open and transparent. By permitting the webcasting of its proceedings, the Committee would see that organizations from developing countries that aspired to a greater role in the United Nations were empowered to witness the deliberations that determined their fate. The European Union therefore supported the resolution on webcasting. Lastly, inadequate space was given to civil society voices during the Committee's proceedings; rather than waste precious time debating whether NGOs should intervene during the Committee's session, their participation should be an accepted fact. Steps must be taken to restore the credibility and integrity of the Committee, through the Council's vigilance and a new spirit among Committee members to conduct their duties in a fair and transparent manner.

8. **Ms. Grigoryan** (Observer for Armenia) said that at its last session, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had once again fallen short of an appropriate standard of impartiality and transparency by continuing to fail to give fair consideration to the applications of a number of organizations, particularly those submitted by Armenian NGOs. Her delegation had expressed its objections to that persistent state of affairs and agreed that inadequate space was given to the voices of civil society at the Committee's proceedings. While every Committee member had the right to pose questions to organizations seeking consultative status, as far as applications from Armenian non-governmental organizations were concerned, membership in the Committee had been abused in a manner that undermined the purposes and reputation of the Organization and sent the wrong message to civil society. She reiterated her Government's objection to artificial obstructions to granting consultative status to non-governmental organizations and underscored the

importance of ensuring impartial and transparent working methods for the Committee.

9. **Mr. Torbergson** (Norway) said that his delegation was alarmed by the shrinking space and restrictions facing civil society in many parts of the world and the concurrent lack of NGO access at the United Nations. All too often, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations failed to recommend consultative status for NGOs for reasons that had far more to do with political motivations than with the principles outlined by Council resolution 1996/31. Norway was seriously troubled by the Committee's readiness to set aside the rules of procedure established by the Council, as well as by the lack of transparency that characterized its activities. Moreover, it regretted the Committee's unwillingness to allot time and space to hear from civil society directly during its proceedings. His delegation strongly supported steps taken by the Council to ensure that the Committee conducted its functions appropriately.

10. **Ms. Carrión** (Observer for Uruguay), speaking also on behalf of Chile and Mexico, said that civil society contributions were indispensable in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other United Nations objectives. Given its important role of creating spaces for NGOs within United Nations activities, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had a responsibility to discharge its duties effectively. However, the fact that 70 per cent of NGOs with a human-rights focus had their applications deferred systematically for reasons with no basis in the questions asked of them by the Committee was particularly alarming. The criteria for granting consultative status must therefore be restricted to their demonstrably independent, pluralistic, democratic and representative character, the compliance of their objectives with the purposes and principles of the Charter and their contribution to the work of the Council.

11. Civil society and NGOs had justifiable concerns regarding the functioning of the Committee. As a corrective measure, States committed to pluralism and promoting the integration of civil society into United Nations activities should therefore be encouraged to become Committee members. Adoption of the draft decision on webcasting the Committee's public meetings would enhance the body's effectiveness and accountability.

Draft decision E/2017/L.16: Application of the non-governmental organization Christian Solidarity Worldwide for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

12. **Mr. Rycroft** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), introducing draft decision E/2017/L.16, said that Council members were aware that the Sustainable Development Goals would only be achieved through the concerted efforts of multiple stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, which brought energy, expertise and fresh perspectives to the work of the United Nations. The aim of the system in place to review NGO applications for consultative status — governed by Council resolution 1996/31, which set out the role of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations — should be to enable, not frustrate, the participation of productive, professional civil society organizations. That system was clearly not working properly when a serious and credible NGO like Christian Solidarity Worldwide was kept waiting in limbo for seven years, responding in good faith to the more than 80 questions and undertaking bilateral consultations with every Committee member, to no avail.

13. Christian Solidarity Worldwide clearly fulfilled every requirement set out in resolution 1996/31; its work was directly relevant to that of the Council and it abided fully by the Charter and international human-rights instruments. Moreover, the organization worked actively to promote the aims and purposes of the Charter and train other civil society partners to work within the United Nations system. Its advocacy for the rights of all peoples to practice their faith as well as for the rights of people who professed no religion constituted vital work. His delegation could only conclude that the Committee's decisions had not been based on the merits of the organization's application, a concern widely shared and expressed to the Council by Nobel laureates, dignitaries and United Nations special rapporteurs. The Committee's repeated arbitrary deferrals contravened the principles of non-discrimination, equality, participation, transparency and accountability set out in resolution 1996/31. Sadly, Christian Solidarity Worldwide was not the only NGO singled out for repeated deferral by the Committee; NGOs with a human rights focus — an essential component of societies that were secure, prosperous and resilient against extremism — had faced discrimination on several occasions. It was crucial for NGOs granted consultative status to reflect the full spectrum of issues of concern to the Council and the Organization as a whole, including the promotion and protection of human rights.

14. Christian Solidarity Worldwide had waited too long for accreditation. In the light of the positive impact its engagement would make, his delegation and the other sponsors had put forward the draft decision to grant it consultative status. By adopting it, Council members would send an uplifting message about the value of NGO engagement and the promotion of human rights.

15. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Guyana, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden had had joined the sponsors of the draft decision.

16. **The President** said that the delegations of China and Pakistan had requested a recorded vote on the draft decision.

Statements made in explanation of vote before the voting

17. **Ms. Bird** (Australia) said that as a long-standing supporter of civil society participation in United Nations processes, Australia remained concerned that the rules and procedures set out in Council resolution 1996/31 had not always been applied in the spirit originally intended and had been misused to prevent certain NGOs from gaining consultative status. Christian Solidarity Worldwide had had its application rejected for the fourteenth time at the most recent Committee session despite meeting all relevant criteria and responding to endless questioning over seven years. The Council must therefore rectify the situation and take action to grant Christian Solidarity Worldwide consultative status. For its part, the Committee must henceforth follow due process and established rules when considering applications for consultative status and discharging its duties.

18. **Mr. Warraich** (Pakistan) said that as a member of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, his delegation had been privy to the discussion on the application submitted by Christian Solidarity Worldwide. Pakistan had voted against granting that organization consultative status since it believed that it was the prerogative of any Committee member to seek clarification and additional information on the activities of a given organization, and that the organization in question was bound to provide them in good faith. Christian Solidarity Worldwide was not the only organization whose application had been subjected to scrutiny, and many other organizations had persisted. His delegation objected to the apparent value judgment of Committee members' intentions in posing questions, a judgment implied by the request for the vote on the application of Christian Solidarity Worldwide during the

Committee's session. The length of an application did not grant it additional merit. Furthermore, seeking reversal of the Committee's decision would undermine its mandate and set a dangerous precedent. For those reasons, Pakistan had requested a vote on the draft decision introduced by the delegation of the United Kingdom.

19. **Ms. Diedricks** (South Africa) said that her Government upheld its own constitutional provisions enshrining the right to freedom of religion and belief. South Africa supported civil society participation within the United Nations system in accordance with the procedures set out in Council resolution 1996/31. Both Member States and non-governmental organizations were required to abide by the resolution without prejudice or preference. Furthermore, each Committee member had the right to raise any query on applications under consideration. NGOs were given the opportunity to respond to those queries. Her delegation had serious concerns about attempts to undermine those provisions by overturning Committee decisions, thus preventing the Committee from conducting its work responsibly and in a consensual, orderly manner. Her delegation would therefore maintain its principled position of voting against the draft decision.

20. **Mr. Nguyen Duy Thanh** (Viet Nam) said that his delegation had followed closely the Committee's discussion of the application for consultative status submitted by Christian Solidarity Worldwide. The Committee should be given more time to carefully review that application and address its own legitimate concerns, which Viet Nam shared. His delegation would therefore vote against the draft decision.

21. **Mr. Yao Shaojun** (China) said that while China supported the role of NGOs in United Nations activities, their participation should be governed by established rules, specifically Council resolution 1996/31, which stipulated that organizations wishing to obtain consultative status must first abide by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Furthermore, the Committee retained the right to raise questions and request more information. In that connection, he wondered whether Christian Solidarity Worldwide, which, as some delegations had suggested, had been applying for consultative status for several years, had made genuine efforts to respond to every question raised by Committee members. If not, it meant that the organization lacked full respect for the Committee. Noting the insistence by some delegations that the General Assembly should respect the Human Rights Council, he cautioned all members against applying double standards and stressed the need to

apply the same criteria throughout the Organization as a whole.

22. *A recorded vote was taken on draft decision E/2017/L.16.*

In favour:

Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Czechia, Estonia, France, Germany, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Spain, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against:

Burkina Faso, China, India, Pakistan, Russian Federation, South Africa, Turkey, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam.

Abstaining:

Algeria, Azerbaijan, Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Iraq, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates.

23. *Draft decision E/2017/L.16 was adopted by 28 votes to 9, with 12 abstentions.*

24. **Mr. Shulgin** (Russian Federation) said that States had the inalienable right to receive information from NGOs concerning their activities, in accordance with Council resolution 1996/31. In keeping with his delegation's traditional stance in support of the recommendations of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, which had decided against granting Christian Solidarity Worldwide consultative status, it had voted against the draft decision. Only the Committee had the necessary opportunities to closely examine the requests of organizations wishing to receive consultative status. Attempting to reopen the Committee's recommendations undermined trust in its work, an approach the Russian Federation could not endorse.

Draft decision E/2017/L.17: Improving the work of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

25. **The President** said that the draft decision had no programme budget implications.

26. **Mr. Barros Melet** (Chile), introducing draft decision E/2017/L.17 also on behalf of Mexico and Uruguay, said that the draft decision was a practical way to make the important work of the Committee more accessible to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society, especially organizations

from developing countries that were unable to travel to Headquarters.

27. His delegation had brought up the issue of webcasting multiple times in the Economic and Social Council and had likewise attempted to discuss it informally in the context of the Committee's consideration of its working methods, without success.

28. The draft decision would enable the Committee to fulfil the mandate handed down by Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, which stipulated that "the Committee, in considering applications for consultative status, should ensure, to the extent possible, participation of non-governmental organizations from all regions, and particularly from developing countries, in order to help achieve a just, balanced, effective and genuine involvement of non-governmental organizations from all regions and areas of the world." Adopting the decision to webcast the public sessions of the Committee would increase transparency and align its practices with those of all other subsidiary bodies of the Council.

29. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Andorra, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Hungary, Israel, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, New Zealand, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovenia and Switzerland had joined as sponsors.

30. **The President** said that the delegation of China had requested a recorded vote on the draft decision.

31. **Ms. Bird** (Australia), also speaking on behalf of Canada, Iceland, New Zealand and Switzerland, said that the participation of civil society was essential to the work of the United Nations, as it contributed valuable expertise and insight that improved the effectiveness, accountability and transparency of the Organization. Engagement by civil society in United Nations processes was key to improving the legitimacy of the Organization.

32. Her delegation welcomed the draft decision to bring webcasting to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations as a practice that would increase the transparency and accountability of the Committee and ensure greater participation from the global South, including from the Asia-Pacific region. Webcasting could moreover increase understanding of the Committee's operations and thus improve the standard of information provided by civil society applicants.

33. **Mr. Vieira** (Brazil) said that his country was a staunch supporter of open and transparent dialogue with society both domestically and internationally. It

was also a candidate for the Committee elections to be held in 2018 for the period 2019-2023.

34. Webcasting the public meetings of the Committee was crucial to ensure that non-governmental organizations from developing countries, including Brazil, were able to follow deliberations on their applications for consultative status. Current arrangements placed an undue burden on the NGOs of the developing world that had neither representation at nor the funds to cover travel expenses to Headquarters. The draft decision would therefore increase transparency in the proceedings of the Committee and enhance civil society participation from developing countries.

35. **Mr. Barros Melet** (Chile) said that the Committee was the gateway for new voices from civil society to enter and contribute their knowledge and experience to the work of the United Nations. Unfortunately, the Committee had shown that it was unable to improve its working methods on its own, including with regard to the efficient management of new applications for consultative status: applications continued to pile up, with many being delayed for no apparent reason.

36. Webcasting could help to mitigate such deficiencies in the work of the Committee and facilitate long-distance monitoring of its work by NGOs in the developing world that could not attend meetings at Headquarters. It was lamentable that the entity whose job was to facilitate the participation of NGOs in the work of the United Nations was the one subsidiary body of the Council that did not webcast its public meetings.

37. **Mr. Rosselli** (Observer for Uruguay) said that as a member of both the Committee and the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group, his delegation believed that webcasting was necessary to increase the efficiency and transparency of the Committee's work, especially in a context where cooperation between NGOs and the Organization was increasing with a view to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The transmission of public sessions would make the Committee's work more accessible, especially to NGOs in developing countries that could not travel to Headquarters.

38. It was unfortunate that the essential issues of transparency and efficiency were not met with consensus in the Committee. Despite having been informally discussed a number of times, the issue of webcasting had had to be brought before the Council.

39. While the Committee was responsible for monitoring the applications of NGOs for consultative status, civil society also had the right to know how those applications were evaluated. It was important to maintain the principle of good faith that underpinned international law. As defending transparency was an ethical commitment, his delegation would vote in favour of the draft decision.

40. **Mr. Yao Shaojun** (China) said that although his delegation supported the practice of improving transparency, the way in which the draft decision had been tabled went against the principles of openness and transparency. In a surprise attack with political aims, the draft decision had only been circulated one day prior to the meeting and the request of members to conduct consultations on it had been rejected, leaving them with no time to study the document.

41. The decision to webcast the public meetings of the Committee should be considered when addressing the working methods of the Committee. Forcing a draft decision through before the Committee had reached consensus was counterproductive. Moreover, although the sponsors of the draft decision argued that it would be beneficial to NGOs in developing countries, many of the sponsors were not developing countries. His delegation would therefore abstain.

42. **Mr. Torbergesen** (Norway) said that his delegation was concerned by the lack of transparency that characterized the work of the Committee, especially as the principles of openness and transparency should be given priority when dealing with the presence of civil society at the United Nations. Norway welcomed the initiative to secure the webcasting of the Committee's meetings as a simple and practical step to increase transparency and improve accountability.

43. It was the responsibility of the Council to lay out rules and guidance for the Committee. As the Committee had discussed the issue of webcasting for several years without reaching consensus, the guidance of its parent body was warranted. His delegation would therefore vote in favour of the draft decision.

44. **Ms. Diedricks** (South Africa) said that the Committee was the body to responsible for implementing the mandate contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 and reviewing its working methods, as was the case for all other subsidiary bodies of the Council. Its decisions were always debated internally before being recommended to the Council, either by consensus or vote. During the Committee's regular session earlier in 2017, informal consultations had been held where it was determined

that the Committee would comprehensively reflect on its working methods and how to improve their effectiveness during its formal resumed session scheduled to take place in June 2017.

45. It was therefore worrisome that the Council was prematurely undermining the work of the Committee by proposing a draft decision on a topic that the Committee had not yet discussed. It was unclear why the draft decision had singled out just one issue out of a list of many important topics requiring the Committee's consideration; the decision seemed to imply that the Committee was not competent to conduct its work.

46. Her delegation could not support the dangerous precedent set by the draft decisions and would instead continue to advocate for transparency, inclusivity and the respect of rules-based multilateralism.

47. **Ms. Gonzalez Tolosa** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that as civil society and NGOs provided essential contributions to the work of the United Nations, her delegation supported the spirit of the draft decision. It would nevertheless abstain from voting, in accordance with its belief that for all decisions put forth by the Council, it was necessary to be consistent with established practices and call on broad, constructive and transparent consultations with all members. The lack of prior open and transparent consultations on the issue went against the spirit of the United Nations.

48. To date, no formal discussion had yet taken place in the Committee on the question of webcasting its public meetings. The Council had therefore not respected the working methods of the Committee, which carried out its work in a responsible manner and in accordance with the criteria stipulated in Council resolution 1996/31. The Committee was scheduled to discuss its working methods at the beginning of its next resumed session.

49. The presentation of draft decisions on the working methods of the Committee by the Economic and Social Council without formal opportunities to discuss the matter beforehand set a dangerous precedent and weakened the mandate of the Committee to evaluate and agree on all issues relative to its working methods, which generally occurred by consensus.

50. *At the request of the representative of China, a recorded vote was taken on draft decision E/2017/L.17.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and

Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Colombia, Czechia, Estonia, France, Germany, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, India, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Chad, China, Mauritania, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Tajikistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

51. *Draft decision E/2017/L.17 was adopted by 37 votes to none, with 16 abstentions.*¹

52. **Mr. Shulgin** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation had abstained because it did not support the consideration of Committee matters by an outside body. A temporary agreement had been reached to address the topic of webcasting during the resumed session of the Committee in May 2017. The matter should have been addressed at that time; the draft decision was therefore in violation of the prior agreement. It likewise violated the longstanding practice of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council of taking independent decisions concerning their own working methods.

53. His delegation seriously objected to the way the draft decision had been put to a vote without preliminary discussions. Adoption of the decision should not create a precedent with regard to the future consideration of the working methods of functional committees. In the future, the sponsors of the decision should work in the spirit of transparency and cooperation.

54. **Mr. Nguyen Duy Thanh** (Viet Nam) said that although all United Nations bodies should benefit from the webcasting of their public meetings in order to ensure accountability and transparency, the Committee should be allowed sufficient space to fulfil its mandate. The Council should support its subsidiary body through open, transparent and timely communication.

55. His delegation was moreover concerned about the financial constraints faced by the Committee as its workload continued to increase. For those reasons, it had abstained from voting on the draft decision.

56. **Mr. Ríos Sánchez** (Observer for Mexico) said that the draft decision would help NGOs, especially those in developing countries, to establish a closer relationship with the United Nations and thus strengthen the work of the Committee.

Action on the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2017 regular session (E/2017/32 Part I)

57. **The President** drew attention to the draft decisions contained in Part I of the report.

Draft decision I: Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification from non-governmental organizations, as amended by the adoption of draft decision E/2017/L.16.

Draft decision II: Withdrawal of the consultative status of the non-governmental organization Kimse Yok Mu

Draft decision III: Withdrawal of the consultative status of the non-governmental organization Gazeteciler ve Yazarlar Vakfı (Journalists and Writers Foundation)

Draft decision IV: Withdrawal of the consultative status of the non-governmental organization Türkiye Isadamlari ve Sanayiciler Konfederasyonu

Draft decision V: Refrain from contacting or communicating with the three organizations whose legal status has ceased to exist and, based on that, whose consultative status was recommended for withdrawal at the first meeting of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, held on 30 January 2017

Draft decision VI: Request for withdrawal of consultative status

Draft decision VII: Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2017 regular session

58. *Draft decisions I, II, III, IV, V, VI and VII were adopted.*

Agenda item 4: Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments (continued)

Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/2017/9)

59. **The President** invited the Council to elect 20 members to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for a

¹ The delegation of Nigeria subsequently informed the Council that they had intended to vote in favour of the draft decision.

four-year term beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2021.

60. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo had been endorsed by the Group of African States, while Algeria was a non-endorsed candidate; Afghanistan, India, Iraq and Kyrgyzstan had been endorsed by the Group of Asia-Pacific States; Croatia, Czechia and the Russian Federation had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Cuba had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were non-endorsed candidates from Western European and Other States.

61. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from African States, Asia-Pacific States, Eastern European States and Latin American and Caribbean States was equal to the number of vacancies for each regional group, she took it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

62. *Afghanistan, Algeria, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Croatia, Czechia, India, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation and Togo were elected members of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs by acclamation.*

63. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from Western European and Other States exceeded the number of vacancies, she invited the Council to elect the five members from that regional group by secret ballot.

64. *At the invitation of the President, Ms. Riis (Estonia) and Ms. Rodríguez Silva (Venezuela) acted as tellers.*

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	54
<i>Required majority:</i>	28
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Belgium	50
Australia	48
Canada	48
Switzerland	44
France	43
United Kingdom	33

65. *Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France and Switzerland were elected members of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.*

66. **The President** said that the membership of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was complete.

Statistical Commission (E/2017/9)

67. **The President** invited the Council to elect eight members to the Statistical Commission for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2018.

68. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Egypt and South Africa had been endorsed by the Group of African States; the Russian Federation had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Peru had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Canada, Denmark and the Netherlands had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

69. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from African States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States, and Western European and Other States was equal to or less than the number of vacancies for each regional group, she took it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

70. *Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Netherlands, Peru, Russian Federation and South Africa were elected members of the Statistical Commission by acclamation.*

71. **The President** said that, in the absence of any other candidates for election to the Statistical Commission, she took it that the Council wished to postpone the election of one member from the African States for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2018.

72. *It was so decided.*

Commission on Population and Development (E/2017/9)

73. **The President** invited the Council to elect 16 members to the Commission on Population and Development for a four-year term beginning at the first meeting of the Commission's fifty-second session in 2018 and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-fifth session in 2022.

74. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Burkina Faso and Mauritania had been endorsed by the Group of African States; Bangladesh, China and Vanuatu had been endorsed by the Group of Asia-Pacific States; Bulgaria and the Russian Federation had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Argentina, Colombia and Haiti had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and the United States of America had

been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

75. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from all regional groups was equal to or less than the number of vacancies for each regional group, she took it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

76. *Argentina, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, China, Colombia, Haiti, Mauritania, Russian Federation, United States of America and Vanuatu were elected members of the Commission on Population and Development by acclamation.*

77. **The President** said that, in the absence of any other candidates for election to the Commission on Population and Development, she took it that the Council wished to postpone the election of two members from African States, one member from Asia-Pacific States and two members from Western European and Other States for a four-year term beginning at the first meeting of the Commission's fifty-second session in 2018 and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-fifth session in 2022.

78. *It was so decided.*

79. **The President** invited the Council to take action on outstanding vacancies on the Commission on Population and Development from Western European and Other States.

80. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Canada had been endorsed by the Group of Western European States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-third session in 2020, and Denmark had been endorsed for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-fourth session in 2021.

81. **The President** said she took it that the Council wished to elect the candidates by acclamation.

82. *Canada and Denmark were elected members of the Commission on Population and Development by acclamation.*

83. **The President** said that she took it that the Council wished to further postpone the elections for three outstanding vacancies on the Commission for Population and Development. They included two from Asia-Pacific States and one from Western European and Other States, all for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-fourth session in 2021.

84. *It was so decided.*

Commission on the Status of Women (E/2017/9)

85. **The President** invited the Council to elect 13 members to the Commission on the Status of Women for a four-year term beginning at the first meeting of the Commission's sixty-third session in 2018 and expiring at the close of the Commission's sixty-sixth session in 2022. They included five members from African States, five from Asia-Pacific States and three from Latin American and Caribbean States. She informed the Council that a request had been made to conduct those elections by secret ballot.

86. **Mr Yao Shaojun** (China) asked which State had requested secret ballots, and why that procedure was being followed for certain subsidiary bodies but not others.

87. **The President** said that the United States had requested the secret ballots, in accordance with rule 68 of the Council's rules of procedure.

88. **Mr. Muhumuza** (Uganda) asked what the procedure was for responding to a request a secret ballot. He wondered what would happen after a request for a secret ballot if a counter-request were to be made.

89. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that the default procedure was to have a secret ballot. She read out rule 68 of the Council's rules of procedure, which stated that all elections were to be held by secret ballot, unless, in the absence of any objection, the Council decided to proceed without taking a ballot on an agreed candidate or slate.

90. Algeria, Comoros, Congo, Ghana and Kenya had been endorsed by the Group of African States; Iraq, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia and Turkmenistan had been endorsed by the Group of Asia-Pacific States; and Ecuador, Haiti and Nicaragua had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

91. *At the invitation of the President, Ms. T Sanchez (Australia) and Ms. Edwards (Guyana) acted as tellers.*

92. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>African States:</i>	
<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	54
<i>Required majority:</i>	28
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Algeria	54
Comoros	53
Congo	53
Ghana	53
Kenya	53

93. *Having obtained the required majority, Algeria, Comoros, Congo, Ghana and Kenya were elected members of the Commission on the Status of Women.*

Asia-Pacific States:

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	54
<i>Required majority:</i>	28
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Iraq	54
Republic of Korea	54
Japan	53
Turkmenistan	53
Saudi Arabia	47

94. *Having obtained the required majority, Iraq, Japan, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia and Turkmenistan and were elected members of the Commission on the Status of Women.*

Latin American and Caribbean States:

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	54
<i>Required majority:</i>	28
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Ecuador	54
Haiti	54
Nicaragua	52

95. *Having obtained the required majority, Ecuador, Haiti and Nicaragua were elected members of the Commission on the Status of Women.*

96. **The President** said that the membership of the Commission on the Status of Women was complete.

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/2017/9)

97. **The President** invited the Council to elect 20 members to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2020.

98. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Egypt, Kenya, Mauritania and Togo had been endorsed by the Group of African States; Afghanistan, China, Indonesia and Japan had been endorsed by the Group of Asia-Pacific States; Bulgaria and the Russian Federation had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Bolivia, Colombia and Uruguay had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

99. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from all regional groups was equal to or less than the number of vacancies for each regional group, she took it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

100. *Afghanistan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mauritania, Russian Federation, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay were elected members of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice by acclamation.*

101. **The President** said that, in the absence of any other candidates for election to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, she took it that the Council wished to postpone the election of four members from the African States for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2020.

102. *It was so decided.*

Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (E/2017/9/Add.4)

103. **The President** invited the Council to elect 21 members to the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2020.

104. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Côte d'Ivoire had been endorsed by the Group of African States; the Russian Federation had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; and Germany had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

105. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from all regional groups was equal to or less than the number of vacancies for each regional group, she took it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

106. *Côte d'Ivoire, Germany and Russian Federation were elected members of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting by acclamation.*

107. **The President** said that, in the absence of any other candidates for election to the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, she took it that the Council wished to postpone the election of four members from African States, three members from

Asia-Pacific States, three members from Latin American and Caribbean States and eight members from Western European and Other States for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2020.

108. *It was so decided.*

109. **The President** invited the Council to take action on an outstanding vacancy on the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting. She had been advised that the Group of Eastern European States Group had endorsed Belarus to fill an outstanding vacancy for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2018. She took it that in the absence of any other candidates, the Council wished to elect the candidate by acclamation.

110. *Belarus was elected a member of the Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting by acclamation.*

111. **The President**, urging the regional groups concerned to submit nominees for vacancies at the earliest opportunity, said that, in the absence of any other candidates for election to the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, she took it that the Council wished to postpone the election of four members from African States, one member from Asia-Pacific States, three members from Latin American and Caribbean States and eight members from Western European and Other States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2017; and for two members from Asia-Pacific State and two members from Latin American and Caribbean States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2018.

112. *It was so decided.*

Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (E/2017/9/Add.5)

113. **The President** invited the Council to elect 11 members to the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2020.

114. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Ghana and the Sudan had been endorsed by the Group of African States; the Republic of Korea and Turkmenistan had been endorsed by the Group of Asia-Pacific States; Belarus had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Brazil and Colombia had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Greece, Iceland, Italy and the

United States of America had been endorsed by the Group of West European and Other States.

115. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from all regional groups was equal to or less than the number of vacancies for each regional group, she took it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

116. *Belarus, Brazil, Colombia, Ghana, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Republic of Korea, Sudan Turkmenistan and United States of America were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund by acclamation.*

117. **The President** said that the membership of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund was complete. The Council had also been informed that Denmark, Spain and Sweden were resigning their seats on the Executive Board effective 31 December 2017. The Group of Western European and Other States had endorsed Austria and Turkey to complete the terms of office of Denmark and Sweden, beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2018, and the Netherlands to complete the term of office of Spain, beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2019. She took it that the Council wished to elect the candidates by acclamation.

118. *Austria, the Netherlands and Turkey were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund by acclamation.*

Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/2017/1/Add.1)

119. **The President** drew the Council's attention General Assembly resolution 71/171, in which the General Assembly had decided to increase the number of members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from 98 States to 101 and requested the Economic and Social Council to elect the additional Members.

120. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Fiji, Lithuania and Paraguay were the candidates.

121. **The President** said that she took it that the Council wished to elect the candidates by acclamation.

122. *Fiji, Lithuania and Paraguay were elected members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees by acclamation.*

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services (E/2017/9/Add.6)

123. **The President** invited the Council to elect 11 members to the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2020.

124. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Burkina Faso and Egypt had been endorsed by the Group of African States; Cambodia and Saudi Arabia had been endorsed by the Group of Asia-Pacific States; the Russian Federation had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Antigua and Barbuda and Brazil had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Finland, Portugal, Switzerland and the United Kingdom had been endorsed by the Group of West European and Other States.

125. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from all regional groups was equal to the number of vacancies for each regional group, she took it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

126. *Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Egypt, Finland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services by acclamation.*

127. **The President** said that the membership of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services was complete. The Council had also been informed that Australia, Germany and the Netherlands were resigning their seats on the Executive Board effective 31 December 2017. The Group of Western European and Other States had endorsed Canada to complete the term of office of Australia, beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2018, and Ireland and Luxembourg to complete the terms of office of Germany and the Netherlands, beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2019. She took it that the Council wished to elect the candidates by acclamation.

128. *Canada, Ireland and Luxembourg were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations*

Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services by acclamation.

Executive Board of the World Food Programme (E/2017/9/Add.7)

129. **The President** invited the Council to elect six members to the Executive Board of the World Food Programme for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2020.

130. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that said that China had been endorsed for List B, Guatemala had been endorsed for List C, Japan and the United Kingdom had been endorsed for list D and Hungary had been endorsed for list E.

131. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from Lists B, C, D and E was equal to the number of vacancies for each list, she took it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

132. *China, Guatemala, Hungary, Japan and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were elected members of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme by acclamation.*

133. **The President** said that, in the absence of any other candidates for election to the Executive Board of the World Food Programme, she took it that the Council wished to postpone the election of one member from list A for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2020.

134. *It was so decided.*

135. **The President** said that the Council had been informed that Swaziland was resigning from the Executive Board of the World Food Programme effective on the date of election, and Lesotho had been endorsed by the countries of List A to complete the term of office expiring on 31 December 2017; Mexico was resigning from the Executive Board effective 31 December 2017, and Colombia had been endorsed by the countries of List C to complete the term of office beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2019; Finland and Spain were resigning from the Executive Board effective on 31 December 2017, and Norway and Greece had been endorsed by the countries of List D to complete the terms of office beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring 31 December 2019; and the Netherlands was resigning from the Executive Board effective on 31 December 2017, and New Zealand had been endorsed by the countries of List D to complete the term of office beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on

31 December 2018. She took it that the Council wished to elect the candidates by acclamation.

136. *Colombia, Greece, Lesotho, New Zealand and Norway were elected members of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme by acclamation.*

Commission for Social Development (E/2017/9)

137. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the outstanding vacancies on the Commission for Social Development.

138. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Congo and Senegal had been endorsed by the Group of African States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-eighth session in 2020; Bulgaria and Romania had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-ninth session in 2021, and the Republic of Moldova had been endorsed for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-seventh session in 2019; France had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-ninth session in 2021, and Iceland had been endorsed for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-eighth session in 2020.

139. **The President** said that she took it that the Council wished to elect the candidates by acclamation.

140. *Bulgaria, Congo, France, Iceland, Republic of Moldova, Romania and Senegal were elected members of the Commission for Social Development by acclamation.*

141. **The President** said that the Council had also been informed that the Republic of Moldova was resigning its seat on the Commission, and Belarus had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States to complete the term of office beginning from the date of election and expiring at the Commission's fifty-eight session in 2020. She took it that the Council wished to elect the candidate by acclamation.

142. *Belarus was elected a member of the Commission for Social Development by acclamation.*

143. **The President**, urging the regional groups concerned to submit nominees for vacancies at the earliest opportunity, said that she took it that the Council wished to further postpone the elections for five outstanding vacancies on the Commission for Social Development. They included two from the Asia-

Pacific States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-ninth session in 2021, and three from the Western European and Other States for two terms beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-ninth session in 2021, and one term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-eighth session in 2020.

144. *It was so decided.*

Commission on Science and Technology for Development (E/2017/9)

145. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the outstanding vacancies on the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. She had been informed that Mexico had been endorsed the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, and South Africa had been endorsed by the Group of African States, both for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2020. She took it that the Council wished to elect the candidates by acclamation.

146. *Mexico and South Africa were elected members of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development by acclamation.*

147. **The President** said that she took it that in the absence of any other candidates for election to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Council wished to further postpone the election of one member from the Western European and Other States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2020.

148. *It was so decided.*

Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (E/2017/1/Add.1)

149. **The President** said that the Council had been informed that Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany and Luxembourg were resigning from the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women effective on 31 December 2017. The Group of Western European and Other States had endorsed Finland, Canada and the Netherlands to complete the terms of office of Belgium, Denmark and France beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2019, and Portugal and New Zealand to complete the terms of office of Germany and Luxembourg beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2018. She took it

that the Council wished to elect the candidates by acclamation.

150. *Canada, Finland, Netherlands, New Zealand and Portugal were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women by acclamation.*

Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (E/2017/1/Add.1)

151. **The President** invited the Council to take action on an outstanding vacancy on the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme. She had been informed that Afghanistan had been endorsed the Group of Asia-Pacific States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2020. She took it that, in the absence of any other candidates, the Council wished to elect the candidate by acclamation.

152. *Afghanistan was elected to the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme by acclamation.*

153. **The President** said that she took it that the Council wished to further postpone the elections for seven outstanding vacancies on the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme. They included one from the Latin American and Caribbean States for a four-year term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2020, and six from the West European and Other States, one for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2018, two for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2019 and three for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2020.

154. *It was so decided.*

Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission (E/2017/1/Add.1)

155. **The President** drew attention to Council resolution 2015/1 and invited the Council to elect one member of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2018. Sweden had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and other States. She took it that the Council wished to elect the candidate by acclamation.

156. *Sweden was elected a member of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission by acclamation.*

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

157. **The President** reminded the Council of the outstanding vacancy on the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from the Asia-Pacific States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2019.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.



Economic and Social Council

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28 July 2016-27 July 2017

First coordination and management meeting

Summary record of the 19th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 19 April 2017, at 3 p.m.

President: Ms. Chatardová (Vice-President) (Czechia)

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Agenda item 4: Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments (*continued*)

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17-06303 (E)



In the absence of Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Ms. Chatardová, Vice-President, took the chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 4: Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments (continued)
(E/2017/1/Add.1)

Committee for Programme and Coordination
(E/2017/9/Add.3)

1. **The President** invited the Council to nominate four members from African States, four members from Asia-Pacific States, three members from Eastern European States, four members from Latin American and Caribbean States and five members from Western European and other States for election by the General Assembly to the Committee for Programme and Coordination for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2020. She recalled that secret ballots had been requested on the slates of candidates from all of the regional groups.

2. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Burkina Faso had been endorsed by the Group of African States; India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan and Pakistan had been endorsed by the Group of Asia-Pacific States; Belarus, Bulgaria and the Republic of Moldova had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Brazil and Chile had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, while Cuba was a non-endorsed candidate; and the United Kingdom and the United States of America had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and other States.

3. *At the invitation of the President, Ms. Ritz (Estonia), Ms. Sola (Germany) and Ms. Rodríguez Silva (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) acted as tellers.*

4. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>African States</i>	
<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	50
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	50
<i>Abstentions:</i>	1
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	49
<i>Required majority:</i>	25
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Burkina Faso	49
<i>Asia-Pacific States</i>	
<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	50
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	50
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	50
<i>Required majority:</i>	26

<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
India	49
Islamic Republic of Iran	48
Japan	48
Pakistan	48
<i>Eastern European States</i>	
<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	50
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	50
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	50
<i>Required majority:</i>	26
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Belarus	50
Bulgaria	50
Republic of Moldova	50
<i>Latin American and Caribbean States</i>	
<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	50
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	50
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	50
<i>Required majority:</i>	26
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Brazil	49
Chile	48
Cuba	42
<i>Western European and other States</i>	
<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	50
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	50
<i>Abstentions:</i>	6
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	44
<i>Required majority:</i>	23
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
United Kingdom	44
United States of America	43
Sweden	1

5. *Having obtained the required majority, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chile, Cuba, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Pakistan, Republic of Moldova, the United Kingdom and the United States of America were nominated for election by the General Assembly to the Committee for Programme and Coordination.*

6. **The President** said that, in the absence of any other candidates for nomination for election by the General Assembly to the Committee for Programme and Coordination for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2018, she took it that the Council wished to postpone the nomination of three members from African States, one member from among the Latin American and Caribbean States and three member from Western European and other States.

7. *It was so decided.*

8. **The President** recalled that there were two outstanding vacancies on the Committee for

Programme and Coordination to be filled from Western European and other States: one for a term expiring on 31 December 2017 and one for a term expiring on 31 December 2018, both terms beginning on the date of election.

Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (E/2017/9/Add.8)

9. **The President** invited the Council to elect, by secret ballot, one member from African States, one member from Asia-Pacific States, one member from Latin America and Caribbean States, and two members from Western European and other States to the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2020. She recalled that secret ballots had been requested on the slates of candidates from the African States, the Asia-Pacific States, the Latin America and Caribbean States, the Western European and other States regional groups.

10. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Congo had been endorsed by the Group of African States; the Islamic Republic of Iran had been endorsed by the Group of Asia-Pacific States; Chile had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and the Australia and Finland had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and other States.

11. *At the invitation of the President, Mr. Chigejo (Zimbabwe) and Mr. Konrád (Czech Republic) acted as tellers.*

12. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>African States</i>	
<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	51
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	51
<i>Abstentions:</i>	1
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	50
<i>Required majority:</i>	26
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Congo	50
<i>Asia-Pacific States</i>	
<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	51
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	51
<i>Abstentions:</i>	3
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	50
<i>Required majority:</i>	25
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Islamic Republic of Iran	48
<i>Latin American and Caribbean States</i>	
<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	51
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	51

<i>Abstentions:</i>	2
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	49
<i>Required majority:</i>	25
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Chile	49
<i>Western European and other States</i>	
<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	51
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	51
<i>Abstentions:</i>	2
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	49
<i>Required majority:</i>	25
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Australia	49
Finland	49

13. *Having obtained the required majority, Congo, Chile, Australia and Finland were elected to the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.*

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.

**Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General
2 June 2017

Original: English

2017 session

28 July 2016-27 July 2017

First coordination and management meeting

Summary record of the 20th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 20 April 2017, at 10 a.m.

President: Ms. Chatardová (Vice-President) (Czechia)

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Panel discussion: Climate change and nutrition

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17-06408 (E)



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In the absence of Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Ms. Chatařdov (Czechia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (A/72/63-E/2017/11)

Agenda item 13: Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B, 57/270 B, 60/265, 61/16, 67/290 and 68/1

1. **Ms. Gornass** (Chair, Committee on World Food Security), introducing the note by the Secretary-General on the main decisions and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security (A/72/63-E/2017/11), said that the forty-third session of the Committee had highlighted the importance of working together to promote food security and sustainable food systems, improve nutrition and address the challenges of climate change. As the foremost inclusive intergovernmental platform for global coordination and policy convergence on food security and nutrition, the Committee gave a voice to all food security and nutrition stakeholders and could play a key role in supporting implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

2. At its forty-third session, the Committee had endorsed a series of policy recommendations on promoting sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition and for poverty reduction, including specific recommendations on pastoral, grazing and intensive livestock systems. It had also endorsed a comprehensive set of policy recommendations on connecting smallholders to markets, which had been developed with input from both the private sector and civil society and were aimed at maximizing the role of smallholder farmers in contributing to global food security and nutrition. The General Assembly was requested to consider, endorse and ensure the wide dissemination of the recommendations to all relevant United Nations organizations and agencies, and Member States were requested to support their implementation. At its session, the Committee had also agreed on its strategy for supporting country-led implementation of the 2030 Agenda, principally through policy convergence, lessons sharing and the global review of progress.

3. The 2017 high-level political forum on sustainable development would be particularly relevant to the Committee as it would focus on poverty

eradication and shared prosperity and would review the Sustainable Development Goals related to food security and sustainable agriculture. It was vital to address hunger and poverty simultaneously and that policies recognized the links between food security, inclusive growth and sustainable development. The Committee was stepping up its contribution to the global fight against malnutrition and was supporting implementation of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action, adopted at the Second International Conference on Nutrition, and the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition. It was benefiting from the relocation from Geneva to Rome of the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition to support its work.

4. An important part of the Committee's work was reviewing global progress on food security and nutrition; it relied on the global monitoring undertaken by the United Nations system. A more holistic approach to monitoring and evaluating progress towards achieving the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and other targets was needed, and the new Food Insecurity Experience Scale was welcomed as an improved index to measure all forms of malnutrition.

5. The Committee had requested a report from the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition on multi-stakeholder partnerships to finance and improve food security and nutrition, which would be issued in 2018. It also looked forward to receiving the Panel's report on sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition, to be issued in June 2017, and its note on critical and emerging issues for food security and nutrition, to be issued by the end of 2017. Those reports would inform the Committee's future work.

6. The Committee had held a forum on urbanization, rural transformation and the implications of changes in rural and urban settings for global food security and nutrition, and was compiling experiences and policy approaches that had proved effective in addressing food security and nutrition in the context of those changes. It had endorsed terms of reference that provided guidance to food security and nutrition stakeholders on the sharing of experiences and good practices in implementing its decisions and recommendations. In addition, it had held a global thematic event to enable the sharing of experiences and a taking stock of the application of the Committee's Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. The event had highlighted both good practices and challenges in the application

of the Voluntary Guidelines, and many stakeholders had stressed the importance of establishing inclusive multi-stakeholder platforms, empowering all parties and ensuring strong political engagement as essential elements for the successful application of the Voluntary Guidelines. Lastly, a plan of action would be developed to address the recommendations resulting from the independent evaluation of the Committee, which reflected the Committee's commitment to continuous improvement.

7. **Ms. Oenema** (Coordinator, United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition) said that the work of the Standing Committee on Nutrition was a follow-up to the commitments made at major global conferences such as the International Conference on Nutrition and the World Health Assembly, and its work had become even more important in the context of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition as the Committee had been called upon to support that Decade as one of the coordinating bodies.

8. The Committee had been established in 1977 with the mandate to review the overall direction, scale, coherence and impact of the United Nations system response to nutrition problems; serve as a point of convergence to harmonize United Nations policies and activities; assist in developing and harmonizing concepts, policies, strategies and programmes in the United Nations system; assess progress towards achievement of objectives; and lay down guidelines for mutually supporting action at the United Nations agency and country levels. The Committee had translated that original mandate into a new strategic plan for 2016-2020 with four objectives: maximize United Nations policy coherence and advocacy on nutrition; support consistent and accountable delivery by the United Nations system; explore new and emerging nutrition-related issues; and promote knowledge-sharing across the United Nations system.

9. The Committee was open to all United Nations agencies having a significant interest or engagement in nutrition, and it worked on the basis of the subsidiarity principle, meaning that it remained lean and delegated responsibility to its members to prevent duplication of work and ensure coherence. As a United Nations body, the Committee respected United Nations principles such as a human-rights-based approach to nutrition and universality. The Committee's work covered all countries and it worked to address all forms of malnutrition. As a result, intersectoral work was vital to ensure that all issues were addressed. The Committee focused on global issues that related to local realities and needs, and was engaged in policymaking, not implementation.

10. In terms of achievements, the Committee had produced policy and discussion papers on subjects such as climate change and nutrition, and the use of schools as a system for improving food and nutrition security. The papers were designed to foster debate, improve understanding and policymaking, and encourage commitment at the national level. It had also provided peer reviews of member policies for the purpose of seeking synergies and avoiding overlap between agencies. Regarding advocacy on nutrition, the Committee was actively engaged with numerous other platforms such as the Committee on World Food Security to support and improve the different agendas on nutrition, and to ensure that nutrition was integrated and fully addressed in all committees and programmes.

11. To support consistent and accountable delivery by the United Nations system, the Committee was developing and updating global guidance on nutrition for effective delivery by United Nations agencies. It was also working to ensure that its global-level policy work had an impact at the country level, was engaging with implementing bodies on the ground such as the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement and was doing outreach work to make sure that its work had the desired impact.

12. The Committee was exploring and fostering debate on new and emerging nutrition-related issues, as well as on difficult issues such as trade and nutrition, in order to encourage new policies, and was collaborating with the academic community. To promote knowledge-sharing across the United Nations system and beyond, the Committee published all its policy papers on its website and had introduced an electronic system of alerts to inform both members and the wider nutrition community. The Committee was committed to following up on global nutrition conferences and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and was working to ensure that action at the global level made sense at the country level. The United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition was encouraging countries to implement recommended nutrition policies, and the Committee was at the centre of that endeavour as it coordinated the United Nations system. The Committee would continue to identify lessons learned, good practices and challenges as it sought to improve coordinated delivery.

Panel discussion: Climate change and nutrition

13. **The President** said that the historic adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement on climate change in 2015 had created momentum for concerted action. Given the interlinkages of the

commitments made in 2015 and the comprehensive nature of the universal and transformative goals and targets, their effective implementation required a coordinated and coherent approach at all levels.

14. Climate change was one of the greatest challenges facing all nations and had environmental, economic and social consequences. Addressing that challenge would involve trade-offs as countries came up with innovative ways to promote environmental sustainability while also promoting implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Climate change had increased the risk of weather-related natural disasters, which jeopardized livelihoods and access to adequate food, clean water and sanitary conditions, which were essential for good nutrition. Unless action was taken, some 35 to 122 million people could fall into poverty owing to the negative impact of climate change on incomes in the agricultural sector. Urgent measures were needed to address the famine affecting South Sudan, Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen. While saving lives was the top priority, long-term resilience would be crucial to prevent future famines. However, that could be achieved only through an integrated approach to implementing the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

15. The high-level event on climate change and the sustainable development agenda, held in March 2017, had invigorated the political momentum on climate change and reinforced synergies between climate action and delivering on the 2030 Agenda. One of the strongest messages from the meeting had been the need to urgently scale up efforts and actions on climate change. The event had also underscored the importance of smart policy and regulatory frameworks to curb greenhouse gas emissions, which could also lead to cross-cutting dividends for other Sustainable Development Goals such as those relating to public health, gender equality and sustainable economic growth.

16. **Mr. Obermeyer** (Deputy Director, World Health Organization (WHO) Office at the United Nations), moderator, said that areas with weak health infrastructure, which were mostly in developing countries, were the least able to cope with extreme events and ecosystem changes resulting from climate change. Those were the same areas that suffered from malnutrition and undernourishment, with women and children bearing the most severe consequences, including not only communicable diseases, but also non-communicable diseases linked to unhealthy diets.

17. **Ms. Oenema** (Coordinator, United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition), panellist,

accompanying her statement with a digital slide presentation, said that the existing food system not only left hundreds of millions of people hungry, malnourished or overweight, but was also one of the main contributors to climate change and environmental degradation. It was responsible for about a quarter of all greenhouse gas emission, 70 per cent of fresh water use and 60 per cent of biodiversity loss. A shift towards animal-based diets would only raise those figures. Changes in temperature and precipitation brought about by greenhouse gas emissions led to increased global food prices, which in turn caused people to turn to cheaper nutrient-poor and calorie-rich foods that led to malnourishment and obesity.

18. Breaking that vicious cycle was the impetus behind the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025), which had been conceived in the context of target 2 of Sustainable Development Goal 2 on ending all forms of malnutrition and Goal 12 on ensuring sustainable consumption. The Second International Conference on Nutrition had presented a number of recommendations designed not only to improve nutrition, but also to promote sustainability. They included strengthening local production; promoting crop diversification; reducing waste through improved storage, preservation and transport; increasing resilience in crisis-prone areas; and developing international guidelines on healthy diets. Such diets would include limited meat consumption, more plants and seafood from non-threatened stocks, balanced energy intake and reduced waste. So far, only a few countries — notably Brazil, Germany, Qatar and Sweden — had included sustainability criteria in their national dietary guidelines.

19. An overall transition to more nutritious and diverse diets would bring the co-benefits of both improving health and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The promotion of sustainable and healthy diets should be part of the climate agenda and regarded as a financing priority. Investment, research and coherent public policies were needed across all relevant sectors, from production to consumption. The Sustainable Development Goals provided a framework for joint action to nourish the world sustainably.

20. **Mr. Obermeyer** (Deputy Director, WHO Office at the United Nations) said that the outcomes of the Second International Conference on Nutrition had clearly demonstrated the need for a shift towards more sustainable food systems. However, market forces were not always conducive to affordable and nutritious food in poor and less populated areas. He wondered if any drivers had been developed to ensure access to healthy diets in underserved communities.

21. **Ms. Oenema** (Coordinator, United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition) said that the study conducted had focused more on mitigation aspects in upper-middle-income countries, but it also touched on lower-income countries. One finding had been that diversification of production could lead to a more diverse diet.

22. **Ms. Gornass** (Chair, Committee on World Food Security; and Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)), panellist, said that while farming was a contributing factor for climate change, sustainable farming could be part of the solution. Urgent action was needed both to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impact of greenhouse gasses already in the atmosphere. Climate change concerns could provide an impetus to rediscover traditional crops, which were often more resilient and could help to diversify diets. Food security and healthy diet concerns needed to be integrated into climate change policies. Examples of the effect of climate change on nutrition could be seen in Somalia, where ongoing drought had resulted in half of the population suffering from undernourishment, and in Nigeria, where famine related to the drying up of Lake Chad had, *inter alia*, helped to create conditions conducive to the rise of Boko Haram.

23. In 2012, the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on Global Food Security had published a report on the interlinkages between climate change and food security and nutrition that had documented the effects of climate change on food availability and quality. Temperature increases, decreases in rainfall, extreme weather events and water shortages could all result in reduced agricultural productivity. The discussion informed by that report had resulted in a set of policy recommendations that had called, *inter alia*, for the integration of climate change concerns into national food security and nutrition programmes. The Committee had contributed a number of policy products, including a set of voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests; principles for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems; policy recommendations on food security and social protection; and the recommendations on water and sustainable agricultural development. It was imperative to build food systems that addressed climate change, reduced waste and promoted a shift to sustainable production and consumption patterns. Both the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda had recognized the centrality of food security and nutrition to the climate and development agendas.

24. **Ms. Elver** (Special Rapporteur on the right to food), panellist, said that most people were unaware of the connection between what they ate and climate change. Agriculture was both a perpetrator and a victim of climate change. Food policy needed to strike a delicate balance between reducing climate impacts and ensuring the right to adequate food. Famine and drought had always been present. However, they were becoming more frequent due to climate change, not to mention man-made factors, especially in Africa. A greater proportion of climate-related financing should be directed towards the food system. Food policy needed to take into account climate change and respond to the voices of the enormous number of people who were food insecure.

25. **Mr. Obermeyer** (WHO Office at the United Nations) said that only 1 per cent of climate financing was directed towards health, and there was no information on what percentage was directed towards nutrition. He wanted to hear more about successes with agroecology, notably in Cuba and Brazil.

26. **Ms. Elver** (Special Rapporteur on the right to food) said agroecology could make a major contribution to addressing climate change. Productivity increases often involved increased water use and soil degradation, and big agribusiness tended to increase greenhouse gas emissions. On the other hand, agroecology tried to use the ecosystem without outside inputs. Local production not only helped to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but also offered opportunities to promote local rights and gender equality. Research on agroecology would be an excellent use of climate change funding.

27. **Mr. Beukeboom** (Climate Envoy of the Netherlands), panellist, speaking via video link, said that for many people, the issue of climate change was still too abstract to be of interest. It was therefore essential to draw links between climate matters, in particular those relating to the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the real economy and provide actors with clear opportunities to reduce the impact of their activities on the climate. The Netherlands had experience in that regard that other States could adapt to their contexts. It had held a national climate summit in 2016, at which representatives of the private sector, civil society and local government had met to discuss the relevance of climate change and the Paris Agreement to them. Deals signed at the summit represented an additional reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of 17.6 megatons. That experience showed that many people were willing to act if they were given the opportunity to do so, and that national summits

could be an effective way of bringing the international momentum from the Paris Agreement to the national level. A similar event, the National Food Summit, had been held in 2017. On that occasion, stakeholders involved in agriculture, food production, food supply, food retail and the restaurant and catering industries had pledged to make the Dutch food sector a leader in safe, healthy and sustainable nutrition within 10 years, including by reducing its inputs, waste and pesticide use. They had also committed to eliminate human rights abuses and environmental damage from their supply chains, which would have an impact beyond national borders.

28. Another successful initiative had been the establishment of the Dutch Sustainable Food Alliance, which had been in place even before the signing of the Paris Agreement. The Alliance, whose members included agricultural and food organizations and supervisory authorities, aimed to promote innovation and enhance resource efficiency through the reutilization of production residues and waste. Experience had shown that progress was best made when a number of actors worked together to find solutions and create change. Approaches based solely on the imposition of prescriptive measures by the Government were generally far less effective, not least because the best ideas usually came from actors within the industry, who were best placed to see where their production processes and value chains could be adapted to enhance efficiency. The alliance model, which could easily be replicated in any context or State, thus provided a means of facilitating effective action by the many stakeholders that were willing to act to combat climate change but did not know where to begin.

29. One of the specific measures undertaken by companies in his country was to quietly replace animal protein with plant protein in many prepackaged foods, which comprised a significant proportion of supermarket food sales. The products had continued to sell well. That was a very simple way to combat climate change by promoting a transition from animal to plant protein, as there was no need to adopt new regulations.

30. While the Dutch nutrition centre's guidelines did not refer explicitly to climate change, they did mention the environmental impact of diet, food purchasing habits and food preparation methods, and a tool enabling citizens to estimate the carbon footprint of their dietary habits was available on its website. Evidence showed that people changed their behaviour as they became aware of the impact of their diet on the climate.

31. It was important to give Governments, academia and the agricultural sector a vision for the future of the food sector. Even ordinary citizens had a fairly accurate picture of what the energy sector would look like in 2050, but that was not the case when it came to food. For example, the idea of finding substitutes for beef seemed both unrealistic and unappealing to many people. There was therefore a need for greater discussion of the matter. He intended to facilitate a national-level debate in the Netherlands and attempt to bring that to the international level at the 2018 Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

32. There was great value to be found in partnerships and in learning through experience and experimentation, as no single solution would enable the full implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. The United Nations could facilitate the necessary dialogue, promote understanding of the discussions that were taking place and connect stakeholders across borders to enable them to share their experiences. Despite the evidence of the effects of climate change on health, actors often did not feel a real need to prevent climate change. However, they were generally very willing to contribute to climate objectives if doing so also helped them to better achieve their primary goal. It was therefore important to link the work that needed to be done from the climate perspective to the objectives of stakeholders in the food industry, for example by showing companies how they could reduce their waste or energy intake in order to increase their profits while also contributing to climate-related goals.

33. **Ms. Mucavi** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) said that FAO had been making an effort to ensure that the work of the Council and the United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition met the expectations of Member States. The nexus between climate change and nutrition was central to the work of FAO, as climate change undermined efforts to achieve food security and exacerbated undernutrition. Climate change affected not only the quantity of food available but also the quality of food, as increased carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere reduced the nutritional value of food. For example, it reduced levels of zinc, iron and protein and increased the levels of starch and sugar in wheat, rice and certain legumes.

34. FAO was helping States adopt sustainable practices and develop and implement national plans for the integration of climate change adaptation measures into relevant national planning and budgeting processes. It was also assisting them in the

development of dietary guidelines. Many States already took sustainability into account in their national guidelines. In order to ensure food security and adequate nutrition for present and future generations, it would be necessary to adjust policy frameworks, improve the efficiency of water use and soil management practices, reduce food loss and waste, recycle nutrients, increase food and diet diversity and promote healthier diets with a smaller carbon footprint.

35. **Ms. Oenema** (Coordinator, United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition), panellist, said that the Paris Agreement provided a basis for much-needed cooperation between the nutrition and climate communities. While the Agreement made little reference to nutrition, it did mention the right to health and call for the development of action plans to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. Nutrition-minded actors should work to have nutrition taken into account in that regard, as better nutrition would have benefits for the health of populations and the climate.

36. Diversifying agricultural production would provide for diverse diets and increase global resilience to climate change. Agricultural investment, which was currently focused on maize, rice and wheat, should therefore be diversified. If the current state of affairs continued, there would be serious consequences in terms of food security if those three crops were negatively affected by climate change.

37. **Ms. Gornass** (Chair, Committee on World Food Security; and Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)), panellist, said that partnerships would be essential in efforts to solve problems related to climate change, nutrition and food security, as the implementation of any decisions taken would require the involvement of the many stakeholders. It might be worth expanding the model of the Committee on World Food Security, the only United Nations committee that comprised representatives of the private sector, civil society, financial institutions, research institutions and United Nations agencies, to other committees. Having such a variety of participants meant that discussions were lengthy, but it ensured that the views and interests of all parties were taken into consideration and resulted in more effective action. The Dutch experience demonstrated that the model was also effective at the national level.

38. Four States in Africa were currently suffering from famine, and the crisis was expected to spread to other States in the region. Conflict was a major factor in the case of three of the countries currently affected, but the root causes of those conflicts were related to

climate change. All stakeholders must therefore work together to urgently address the climate issues that were having such a serious impact on food security and nutrition, as many people were now dying. The affected countries had not contributed to the effects of climate change and did not have the capacity to address the effects of climate change without support from the international community.

39. **Ms. Elver** (Special Rapporteur on the right to food) said that despite the positive developments that had taken place in relation to the Paris Agreement, there was still a lack of clarity on how certain elements would be implemented. Governments, civil society and the private sector must all play their part. While the inclusion of a reference to human rights in the Paris Agreement was a step forward, it was disappointing that there was no mention of the right to adequate food, as ignoring that perspective could result in the adoption of harmful climate policies. For example, the right to food had been undermined by certain greenhouse gas emission reduction projects and by policies promoting the use of biofuel. It was therefore important to engage in in-depth discussions with Governments. The Committee on World Food Security was doing good work to help Governments develop solid policies.

40. **Mr. Beukeboom** (Climate Envoy of the Netherlands) said that practically every sector would have to become climate neutral, but that would be particularly challenging for the agricultural sector. It was still not clear what changes and innovations would be needed or what the path to sustainability would look like.

41. The multi-stakeholder composition of the Committee on World Food Security worked well and could serve as a model for other United Nations committees. The Council might wish to consider inviting private sector representatives to future meetings in order to gain a better understanding of what was involved in translating policies into practice.

42. The annual \$100 billion committed under the Paris Agreement to combat climate change would not be sufficient to achieve the objectives the Agreement. However, there was a mismatch between what had been termed climate finance and the actual amount of money that could be invested in such a way as to promote sustainability. For example, the pension funds for Dutch civil servants alone had a combined portfolio of around \$400 billion. Investing money in ways that would have long-term financial and environmental returns would unlock many billions of dollars that could be invested in the climate.

43. **The President**, in her concluding remarks, said that policies that promoted healthy and sustainable diets would reduce the carbon footprint of food production and save lives by helping to prevent diet-related diseases. There was a need for greater investment and research into sustainable and healthy diets and for coherent public policies across relevant sectors. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provided a crucial framework for joint action in that regard. The discussion that had taken place at the current meeting would inform the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, which would undertake an in-depth review of Sustainable Development Goal 2, on ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture, in July 2017.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.



Economic and Social Council

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First coordination and management meeting

Summary record of the 21st meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 20 April 2017, at 3 p.m.

President: Ms. Chatardová (Vice-President) (Czechia)

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Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions

- (e) Environment
- (h) International cooperation in tax matters
- (i) Geospatial information
- (k) United Nations Forum on Forests

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17-06423 (E)



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In the absence of Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Ms. Chaturdová (Czechia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions

(e) Environment

1. **Mr. Ahmad** (Deputy Director, New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)) said that during the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP, more than 120 ministerial-level representatives as well as participants from civil society, major groups, academia, businesses and the scientific community had deliberated on critical environmental challenges and had reviewed the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its relevant linkages.

2. With regard to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/5, UNEP had conducted a mapping of the Sustainable Development Goals and aligned its medium-term strategy for 2018-2021 to the 2030 Agenda. As a custodian agency, UNEP had worked with other United Nations entities to develop and submit relevant indicators required for follow-up and review of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda. UNEP had also provided capacity-building for United Nations country teams and their national counterparts on the integration of the environmental dimension across national policies.

3. UNEP was working with partners to coordinate global efforts to obtain data on progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2016, it had reported to the United Nations Secretary-General on six of the Goals where global data sets were available. UNEP had worked with the United Nations Statistical Division, the regional economic commissions and other entities to help countries develop capacity on environmental statistics with a view to reporting on internationally agreed goals.

4. Other resolutions adopted had covered the topics of oceans and seas; marine plastic, litter and microplastics; and sustainable coral reef management. Collectively, the resolutions addressed the issue of the effective conservation of marine and coastal zones and the achievement of Goal 14.

5. The United Nations Environment Assembly was actively supporting the preparatory process for the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14:

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, to be held in June 2017, and continued to support the General Assembly-led process to develop a legally binding international instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. UNEP had recently launched the Clean Seas global campaign on marine litter, aimed at eliminating two of the main sources of ocean trash by 2022, microplastics, which were frequently used in cosmetics, and single-use plastic products such as shopping bags.

6. The United Nations Environment Assembly had also adopted resolutions on a number of key environmental issues that warranted special international focus, including sustainable consumption and production, environmental education, sound management of chemicals and waste, and illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products. UNEP stressed the interlinkages between a healthy environment, human well-being and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and promoted an integrated approach that would contribute to the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. As no single entity could address environmental issues alone, UNEP had entered into more than 100 partnerships with businesses, academia, think tanks, indigenous groups, youth groups and women's organizations.

7. The theme of the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly would be "Towards a pollution-free planet". The Assembly would help to generate the necessary political will to identify priority areas and potential solutions to reduce all streams of pollutants in targeted sectors at the local, national and global levels. He called on the Council to take the recommendations of UNEP into account and to integrate the environmental dimension in all its activities.

(h) International cooperation in tax matters (E/2016/45)

Draft resolution: United Nations code of conduct on cooperation in combating international tax evasion

8. **The President** drew attention to the draft resolution entitled "United Nations code of conduct in cooperation on combating international tax evasion", contained in chapter II of the report of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its twelfth and thirteenth sessions (E/2016/45).

9. *The draft resolution was adopted.*

10. **The President** said she took it that the Council wished to take note of the report of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its twelfth and thirteenth sessions (E/2016/45).

11. *It was so decided.*

(i) Geospatial information (E/2016/46)

Draft decision: Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its sixth session and provisional agenda and dates for the seventh session of the Committee

12. **The President** drew attention to the draft decision entitled "Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its sixth session and provisional agenda and dates for the seventh session of the Committee", contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the Committee of Experts (E/2016/46).

13. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(k) United Nations Forum on Forests (E/2017/10)

Draft resolution: United Nations strategic plan for forest 2017-2030 and quadrennial programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2017-2020

14. **The President** drew attention to the draft resolution entitled "United Nations strategic plan for forest 2017-2030 and quadrennial programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2017-2020", contained in chapter I of the report of the Forum on its 2017 special session (E/2017/10).

15. **Mr. Lawrence** (United States of America) said that the actions contemplated under the plan were voluntary and did not purport to alter or affect rights or obligations under international law. Regarding global forest target 2.2, while his delegation supported efforts to improve the ability of small-scale enterprises to finance their businesses and sell their products, it maintained that the World Trade Organization was the appropriate forum for the negotiation of trade issues. The strategic plan did not represent a commitment to provide new market access for goods and did not interpret or alter any existing World Trade Organization agreements, including the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

16. The United States disassociated itself from the language used in the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030 to refer to technology transfer, most notably as contained in paragraphs 15 and 58 (b) of annex I to the report (E/2017/10).

17. *The draft resolution was adopted.*

18. **The President** said she took it that the Council wished to take note of the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its 2017 special session (E/2017/10).

19. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 3.35 p.m.



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First coordination and management meeting

Summary record of the 22nd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 21 April 2017, at 10 a.m.

President: Ms. Chatardová (Vice-President) (Czechia)

Contents

Agenda item 20: United Nations research and training institutes

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17-06473 (E)



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In the absence of Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Ms. Chatardová (Czechia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 20: United Nations research and training institutes (E/2017/48, E/2017/51 and E/2017/52; E/2017/L.18 and E/2017/L.19)

1. **Mr. Seth** (Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on UNITAR (E/2017/48), said that since the establishment of the Institute some 50 years previously, the scope of its programming had expanded to cover all areas of work of the United Nations, including peace and security, economic development, social progress and environmental sustainability. Progress had been made under the six programming areas of the 2014-2017 strategic framework and the Institute had generally received positive feedback from compliance and oversight mechanisms. Noting that one of the priorities of the Institute was "reaching the furthest first", he said that 50 per cent of its developing country learning-related beneficiaries were from small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and least developed countries. In addition, the Institute was focused on aligning its programming with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and improving its performance monitoring, evaluation and quality assurance frameworks and practices, in line with its efforts to become more efficient, effective and coherent.

2. **Mr. Javan** (Director of the United Nations System Staff College), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations System Staff College (E/2017/52), said that the mission of the Staff College was to contribute to a more effective, results-oriented and agile United Nations system through relevant, innovative and engaging learning, training and knowledge dissemination. In its resolution 2015/9, the Economic and Social Council had recognized the continuing work of the Staff College to consolidate its central role in inter-agency learning, training and knowledge-sharing, in the light of the current efforts to equip the staff of the United Nations with the right knowledge and the skills necessary to respond to global challenges, including the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

3. The Staff College offered a growing number of courses on leadership, management, organizational change and innovation, communication and advocacy, safety and security, sustainable development and sustaining peace. In 2016 it had provided 122 learning

activities, up from 84 the previous year, many of them organized in collaboration with external partners such as private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions. As an inter-agency institution, the Staff College had an unparalleled overview and a deep understanding of the United Nations system. Its efforts to invest in blended and technology-led training, collaborative tools, informal learning and individual coaching had reaped dividends, with the Staff College transforming itself into the main learning hub of the United Nations. The Staff College was in the process of developing its strategic plan for the period 2018-2021, which would continue to prioritize the transformative agenda.

4. **Mr. Cockayne** (Head of Office of the United Nations University in New York), introducing the report of the Council of the United Nations University on the work of the University (E/2017/51), said that the United Nations University conducted evidence-based research that addressed real-world concerns, with a view to providing credible and objective guidance towards solving the challenges facing humankind. It functioned as a problem-focused research institution, a think tank for the United Nations system and a postgraduate training and capacity development organization.

5. He highlighted the most salient parts of the report, providing an overview of the institutional structure of the United Nations University, its output and activities, its financial and human resources, and its institutional priorities for the future, including its strategic plan for the period 2015-2019. The strategic plan called on the United Nations University to focus its expertise and resources on topics that were of particular relevance to the United Nations and Member States, in areas in which it could make a significant contribution, and to make its research findings more visible and accessible to policymakers and United Nations officials. The plan also set out three key organizational priorities, namely, strengthening management, ensuring sustainable growth and streamlining partnerships. The University's other prioritized initiatives were promoting gender equality, including at the senior management level, and sustaining host country relationships.

6. **Mr. Cardi** (Italy) said that, with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations research and training institutes had become more important than ever. None of the Sustainable Development Goals could be considered the exclusive mandate of a single United Nations entity and equally none of the Goals could be excluded from the work of any United Nations entity. Similarly, the Organization's core

objectives of promoting peace and security, respect for human rights and sustainable development could not be pursued independently of one another. In that connection, the United Nations must integrate its operations and build a common organizational and management culture, with a view to creating an organization that was fit for purpose and able to deliver as one. The United Nations System Staff College had a fundamental role to play in that regard, thanks to its unique inter-agency and system-wide mandate. The Staff College, which had established itself as a centre of excellence within the United Nations system, should serve as a source of inspiration for management and organizational transformation, which was of critical importance for the effective and efficient delivery of the Organization's mandate.

7. **Mr. Aliyev** (Azerbaijan) said that UNITAR was an extremely effective organization. A great many delegates, from both developing and developed countries, had benefited from training in New York and Geneva, as well as in the field. The Institute had high-quality outputs, such as its e-learning course on the role of the private sector in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and its new mobile application "UN — How to".

8. **Ms. Schmid-Luebbert** (Germany) said that her country was proud to host the newly established United Nations System Staff College Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development. The Staff College carried out excellent work and Germany would continue to support it and the Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development, with a particular focus on learning, training and knowledge management in the context of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Indeed, the 2030 Agenda required new approaches to knowledge and skills development for all actors. There was a need to move beyond separate mandates and structures and explore linkages between different thematic issues, and also to promote lifelong learning. The Staff College, which advocated a holistic approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, deserved the strong support of Member States.

9. **Mr. Lawrence** (United States of America) said that training and research were of fundamental importance for achieving the universal aspiration of a more peaceful and prosperous world. Noting the importance of improving the coherence, efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations system, he said that the United States welcomed the efforts of the Staff College to integrate the principles of organizational change and knowledge management into its work. Like the Staff College, delegations should prioritize

organizational change and contribute to improving the effectiveness and coherence of the United Nations system. He also commended the innovative approach of UNITAR, which was providing cost-effective training through partnerships with universities and civil society, thereby ensuring that all delegations were equipped with the tools needed to bring about reform and achieve shared goals.

10. **Mr. Al Mutawa** (United Arab Emirates) said that his country welcomed the efforts of UNITAR to realign its programmes with the 2030 Agenda, including by offering capacity-building and training to help Member States translate the Sustainable Development Goals into national development plans and strategies. The Institute's vision statement, drawn up in preparation for its 2018-2021 strategic framework, would help it to respond to the changing needs of its stakeholders.

11. Innovation was a key driver of growth and competitiveness, and one of the overarching themes guiding his Government's work. The United Arab Emirates welcomed, therefore, the Institute's decision to make innovation one of its guiding principles. He urged the Institute to continue building and strengthening partnerships with all stakeholders, in particular academic institutions, as such partnerships enabled UNITAR to capitalize on the latest academic and research findings and share knowledge and best practices on pedagogical and training methods.

12. **Mr. Ríos Sánchez** (Observer for Mexico) said that the United Nations University had played an important role in the preparations for the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, held in 2016, the drafting of research papers and the holding of discussion forums to identify areas of common ground. Such activities had been extremely useful for Member States and had helped to enrich the outcome document of the special session, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem".

13. On 1 January 2017, the United Nations University Rector had assumed the Chair of the Global Migration Group. During the negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, Member States would need access to up-to-date, innovative and objective information, data and research. The United Nations University was well placed to make a valuable contribution in that regard.

Draft resolution E/2017/L.18: United Nations System Staff College in Turin, Italy

14. **The President** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

15. *Draft resolution E/2017/L.18 was adopted.*

Draft resolution E/2017/L.19: United Nations Institute for Training and Research

16. **The President** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

17. **Mr. Mebarki** (Algeria), introducing the draft resolution, said that Azerbaijan, Colombia, Italy, Lebanon and South Africa had become sponsors of the draft resolution. His Government had led the coordination of the drafting process because it firmly believed that training and research were essential for development. Noting that it was important to capitalize on the experience of UNITAR, he called on the Institute to work more closely with all United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and to forge partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including at the country level. While the Institute's financial situation was stable, UNITAR remained dependent on a small number of donors, including Algeria, and he urged more Member States to provide voluntary contributions to the Institute.

18. **Mr. Alessawi** (Iraq) said that UNITAR had played a pioneering role since its establishment in 1963. He commended the Institute on the progress made in implementing its 2014-2017 strategic framework, including capacity-building and strengthening the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. UNITAR should continue responding to the training needs of Member States and harmonizing those activities with the 2030 Agenda. The Institute should also strengthen its partnerships with United Nations entities, academic institutions and all other stakeholders.

19. *Draft resolution E/2017/L.19 was adopted.*

20. **The President** said she took it that the Council wished to take note of the report of the Council of the United Nations University on the work of the University (E/2017/51).

21. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.

**Economic and Social Council**

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Integration segment**Summary record of the 23rd meeting**

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 8 May 2017, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Munir (Vice-President) (Pakistan)

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In the absence of Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Mr. Munir (Pakistan), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 8: Integration segment

Opening of the segment

1. **The President**, opening the integration segment of the Economic and Social Council, said that the theme of the 2017 segment was "Making eradication of poverty an integral objective of all policies: what will it take?". That theme was aligned with the overall focus of the 2017 session of the Council on "Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions: through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges".

2. Quoting Nelson Mandela, he said that massive poverty and obscene inequality were the contemporary equivalents of slavery and apartheid. Since Mandela's time, global domestic product had increased by almost 30 per cent and international trade and foreign direct investment had nearly doubled. More than one billion people had been lifted out of extreme poverty and advancements in primary school enrolment had led to a net enrolment rate exceeding 90 per cent. Significant progress had been made in terms of women's empowerment and closing gender disparities. In addition, the world had seen a dramatic decline in preventable child deaths, improved maternal health, decreasing HIV infections in many parts of the world and the halting or reversing of malaria and tuberculosis trends. In 2015, 91 per cent of the global population had access to improved drinking water.

3. Despite such achievements, however, significant differences at the regional, national and even subnational levels still remained. More than 800 million people lived below the international poverty line of \$1.90 a day and 10 per cent of workers and their families remained poor despite employment. Significant gaps still remained with regard to gender, race, disability and informal employment.

4. Given that the interconnected nature of the three dimensions of sustainable development was a central feature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, integrated policy frameworks would be necessary for its achievement. As a multi-stakeholder platform for dialogue on the challenges, opportunities and lessons learned, the 2017 Integration Segment would seek to provide guidance for policy formulation to promote the balanced integration of all aspects of sustainable development. The Segment was a timely opportunity to assess the status of integration and

coherence of actions on the Sustainable Development Goals at the national, regional and international levels in advance of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the high-level segment of the Council.

5. The theme of the current Segment was a perfect example of the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Goals and the need for integrated policies to achieve them. Poverty was a complex, multidimensional phenomenon that encompassed the three dimensions of sustainable development; eradicating it in a sustainable and irreversible manner would thus require addressing all dimensions. Best practices and lessons learnt must be gathered at all levels, including by discussing the cross-border nature of natural resource management and the connection between the preservation of natural resources and the well-being and livelihood of local communities. During the segment, national experiences would be presented by Governments and other stakeholders with operations at the national level. The Segment would moreover discuss how to translate the 2030 Agenda into national policies; as policies could have both direct and indirect effects on poverty outcomes, poverty eradication objectives must be a crosscutting concern of public policies. Special attention would be paid to the particular opportunities and challenges of the African continent, which included the majority of the least developed countries. It was hoped that the segment would produce integrated policy solutions for poverty eradication that were creative, actionable and sustainable.

6. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh), Acting President of the General Assembly, speaking on behalf of the President of the General Assembly, said that while strong progress had been made in recent decades to eradicate the scourge of poverty, success had not been universally shared: sub-Saharan Africa was still home to more than half of the world's population living in extreme poverty. Eradicating poverty was therefore an essential component of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Efforts to eradicate poverty must also ensure that hard-won development gains were resilient and not easily swept away by external shocks, crises or diseases. Eradicating poverty would require all stakeholders to engage in new ways of thinking, partnering, financing and delivering, based on local needs on the ground.

7. The United Nations must pursue an integrated and cross-cutting approach to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Next, it must mainstream sustainable poverty eradication and scale up system-wide efforts to support achievement of the Goals. United Nations agencies, funds and programmes

must support national efforts to build sustainable peace and to promote good governance, the rule of law, gender equality and social inclusion. Ways to enhance policy coherence and operational coordination between development, peace and humanitarian actors, both at Headquarters and in the field, must be envisioned. Inclusive and strategic partnerships must be built that included all sectors and levels of the United Nations, government, civil society, international financial institutions, the private sector and community groups to leverage comparative advantages. Women and girls, young people, minority groups and marginalized communities must also be engaged. The reform of the United Nations development system was a critical opportunity to address many of the issues hindering poverty eradication. The international community must deliver in full on its official development assistance commitments.

8. There could be no sustainable development without sustainable peace and vice versa. It was vital to prioritize poverty eradication in order to achieve a safe, prosperous and sustainable future for all.

9. **Ms. Mohammed** (Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations) said that the Integration Segment would provide crucial insights to help transform the 2030 Agenda into reality by achieving the Sustainable Development Goals at the country level.

10. Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, especially extreme poverty, was the most urgent global challenge to achieving sustainable development. One in eight people lived on less than \$2 a day, and many who had escaped extreme poverty remained very close to the poverty line. Poverty was increasingly concentrated in regions and groups, trapping multiple generations in a vicious cycle. Goal 1 was therefore to end all forms of poverty everywhere. To achieve that Goal, it was necessary to recognize the multi-dimensional nature of poverty as well as its interlinkages with human and environmental health and inequality both within and among countries. Addressing poverty eradication, as well as the related issues of climate change, food insecurity and the sluggish and unpredictable global economy required integrated responses and engagement by a wide range of actors, including Governments from both the North and South, civil society and businesses.

11. In order to translate the 2030 Agenda to the national level, complex policy interlinkages as well as the root causes of poverty must be addressed, while prioritizing marginalized and vulnerable people. There was a need for investment that was commensurate with the scale of the challenge at hand.

12. The Integration Segment was an opportunity to see how national approaches and the recently adopted lists of Sustainable Development Goal indicators could support each other in an integrated implementation process. The ambition of the United Nations development system when implementing the 2030 Agenda should match the goals set by Member States themselves; the quadrennial comprehensive policy review was welcome as a chance to align the development system with national implementations.

13. The focus of the Integration Segment should be on providing specific technical guidance to the high-level political forum and on how to support national implementation of the 2030 Agenda through results-oriented approaches. Options were needed that would allow policymakers at all levels to foster coherent and integrated actions to eradicate poverty and implement the Goals at the country level.

14. **Ms. Banda** (former President of the Republic of Malawi), delivering a keynote address, said that although universal progress had been achieved with regard to inclusion and poverty eradication, a growing imbalance remained. Half of all people who lived below the poverty line could be found in sub-Saharan Africa, and 80 per cent of those Africans lived in agricultural areas; 50 per cent were under the age of 14. Moreover, the fact was often overlooked that more than half of the poor in sub-Saharan Africa were likely to be women. Consequently, achieving gender equality and empowering youth would be crucial for African prosperity. Poverty was not caused just by an absence of resources, but by structural problems in a society that was currently designed to disempower and disadvantage women. For example, in African food production, women often produced, harvested, stored and cooked the food, but ate last and least.

15. Studies had shown that when women were given the tools to succeed economically, they had a broad impact on the well-being of their households and larger communities. Policymakers and leaders must respect and include both women and the larger rural communities that represented the bulk of Africa's disadvantaged people. Solutions must be developed on the ground rather than imposed from above.

16. As President of Malawi, she had established the Presidential Initiative for Maternal Health and Safe Motherhood, a programme that had involved officials from the Ministry of Health, traditional birth attendants, local chiefs and the community in maternal health matters; the programme had seen a 30 per cent reduction in maternal mortality in two years. The National Association of Business Women, which she

had likewise founded in 1989, provided one of the most successful illustrations of how households were transformed when women were economically empowered. The impact study conducted ten years later by the USID Foundation had found that 73 per cent of households had moved out of poverty and 40 per cent had shifted from informal employment to small and medium-sized enterprise. When income entered households through women, the benefits were distributed to all members of the family and the community at large. It was urgent to support and promote African women to become political leaders.

17. Of the 200 million Africans between the ages of 15 and 24, if current trends continued, most would be uneducated, unemployed, unhealthy and frustrated. Through its five pillars of increasing household income through women, supporting education for girls, promoting maternal health and addressing HIV/AIDS, encouraging leadership and defending human rights, the Joyce Banda Foundation gave such youth a fair chance at succeeding.

18. Political will was the most critical element lacking in addressing Africa's challenges, which included the world's fastest growing youth population, highest rate of working poverty and largest youth population willing to move permanently for employment. Africa also had low levels of female education and some of the highest rates of malnutrition, epidemics, and child and maternal mortality. Investing in human capital, especially women and youth, was crucial to eradicating poverty in Africa and driving inclusive growth.

19. More attention must be paid to girls between the ages of 0 and 10. Although resources currently existed to address the issues of girls aged 10 to 14, that was too late to address a number of problems related to nutrition, deformity, defilement, child labour, harmful traditions and educational discrimination.

20. In resource-rich countries, the reinvestment of natural resource revenues in education and health care could allow societies to graduate to post-industrialization. Policymakers must focus on education and health care in Africa, especially for youth, girls and other vulnerable people. Curricula, including vocational and technical training, must be adapted to accelerate inclusive and self-reliant growth and reflect the current job market by focusing on science, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship. Education should also include a civil component, so that citizens could know their rights and responsibilities and hold their political leaders

accountable. Easy access should be provided to scholarships and microcredits.

21. Political leadership must be action-oriented, accountable, inclusive and transparent. It was the responsibility of leaders to ensure that citizens felt engaged in the management of natural resources. Currently, mistrust reigned and the average person did not see the point of managing natural resources whose wealth accrued only to a small elite. Botswana was an example of a country that had successfully transitioned from using its natural resources as a source of conflict to a source of prosperity. Malawi had implemented cash transfer programmes to try to increase transparency in natural resource management. She called on the Council and the United Nations to hold leaders accountable, ensuring that they did not plunder what belonged to the people.

22. **Mr. Saqib** (founder, Akhuwat), also delivering a keynote address, said that the nature and scope of poverty must be fully understood because it could be tackled. Traditionally, poverty had been quantified by food energy intake and the cost of basic needs. However, the well-being of a population depended on many variables, not all of which could be improved by higher income and consumption. If per capita income in a neighbourhood increased, but there were no schools or hospitals available, for instance, poverty would not be alleviated. Therefore, per capita income must be supplemented by other measures that addressed housing, the provision of public goods, life expectancy, security, self-respect and dignity. The Human Development Index, developed in Pakistan, was one such multidimensional framework.

23. Poverty eradication must become a priority and an integral part of all policies. With the Pakistan Vision 2025 programme, his country had reaffirmed the need to make economic growth both inclusive and sustainable. Pakistan had recently launched a multidimensional poverty index that targeted education, health and living standards with 15 indicators. Policymaking was gradually changing in the country, due to an increased focus on identifying vulnerabilities at both the individual and community level and the need for customized, holistic solutions. Various programmes for poverty alleviation were being strengthened and brought under one umbrella. There was growing awareness of the need to move from universal subsidies to well-designed and targeted interventions, while abandoning stereotypical solutions and favouring innovative, technology-conscious approaches.

24. One such innovative model was Akhuwat, a microfinance programme that he had designed 16 years earlier on the basis of a participatory development approach. Akhuwat was now the largest Islamic microfinance institution in the world, providing over \$400 million as interest-free microcredit to 1.8 million families across Pakistan. The average loan amount was \$200 and the institution had an enviable recovery rate of 99.9 per cent. Akhuwat adopted a holistic approach to development that encouraged empowerment and self-reliance through entrepreneurship. The organization believed that high interest rates exacerbated the plight of the poor. It operated through religious sites, revitalizing their historical role in bonding communities and promoting interfaith harmony. Akhuwat was based on the spirit of volunteerism and mutual support; it encouraged borrowers to donate to the fund once they had achieved economic stability, thus creating a virtuous cycle. The organization prohibited discrimination based on caste, race, creed, faith or gender.

25. Akhuwat's enviable recovery percentage reflected its belief in the integrity of the poor when helped with dignity. The organization operated in 400 cities in Pakistan and would soon open branches in Uganda, Kenya and Nigeria. Poverty extended beyond a mere lack of financial resources. In order to achieve a poverty-free society based on the principles of compassion and equity, the most marginalized must be included. People in poverty were not generally responsible for their own condition, as structural factors were often at play — a realization that was often missing at the policymaking and implementation level.

26. A long-term sustainable solution to poverty required a focus on education, a tool with irreversible impact. Consequently, Akhuwat had launched a number of no-fee schools, colleges and universities and developed a public-private partnership with the federal Government of Pakistan, as well as many state governments. Akhuwat's story must be shared to reiterate the need for cross-cutting integrated solutions to poverty eradication that emphasized inclusiveness, accountability and the transformation of sociopolitical norms.

27. **Mr. Bah** (Youth Representative, High-level Steering Committee of the United Nations Secretary-General's Global Education First Initiative), also delivering a keynote address, said that throughout his work as a youth leader, education advocate and champion for girls, he often confronted the question of why entrenched, endemic poverty existed. Nelson Mandela had said that poverty was not natural, but

man-made, and as such could be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings. That realization was both comforting and depressing, especially given that the conditions endured by over 1.2 billion people in the world had often been created by slavery, colonization, plunder, patriarchy and discrimination. Tackling poverty in a sustainable and integrated way would require dismantling structural inequalities, as well as the current global economic system that privileged business over labour. Poverty could not be eradicated simply through policy changes, even with the best possible governments. The current global power structure, which put a premium on race, nationality, ethnicity and gender over shared humanity, must be re-examined.

28. The world needed an education revolution. Nearly one billion people had begun the twenty-first century unable to read and write; while major gains had been made, much more remained to be done to ensure that illiteracy was ended within one generation. The education revolution should also prioritize global citizenship and take advantage of technological advances to activate a global civil society that was committed to the values that defined the United Nations: a commitment to equality, justice and human rights for all.

29. Every single decision must have real people at its core. A girl born in Sierra Leone had only one in ten chances of making it through secondary school. One in five girls would be married by age 15 and half by age 18. Girls in Sierra Leone had no female teachers or mentors; if they lived in rural areas, they often had no access to electricity. Denied access to contraceptives, girls would often have children, then be forced to exchange their bodies to feed their children, and in turn have more children. Without access to good nutrition or education, those children would continue the cycle of poverty. Only by keeping real people and issues at the centre of each policy could the international community relegate poverty to the trash bin of history.

30. A video presentation on the importance of an integrated approach was shown.

Panel discussion: An integrated agenda towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 1

31. **Mr. Ratray** (Jamaica), moderator, said that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development maintained that poverty was more than a simple lack of income. With some 480 million working poor in the world, policy approaches to poverty eradication must be integrated to account for deprivations in the social, economic, environmental and political dimensions of

poverty. The United Nations development system had a role to play in moving towards integrated decision-making and policy design in order to meet the demands of the ambitious agenda adopted by Member States.

32. **Mr. Cruz Sánchez** (Head of Office, Planning and International Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico), panellist, accompanying his statement with a digital slide presentation, said that Mexico had created a national council on sustainable development to coordinate the work of various agencies to implement the 2030 Agenda, which served as a roadmap towards a more just, prosperous and inclusive society. From 2000 to 2015, the world had achieved the highest poverty reduction rate in human history, with over one billion people being lifted out of extreme poverty. His Government's poverty reduction policy entailed taking actions to strengthen its institutional framework, grounded in a rights-based approach; taking cross-cutting and vertical measures around clear, measurable goals; and targeting resources and taking advantage of local capacities in a manner that fostered citizen ownership of policy by ensuring transparency and accountability. The 2030 Agenda provided an incentive for his Government to continue improving the quality of life of its people, placing dignity and equity at the centre of social policy.

33. Poverty eradication required a paradigm shift from assistance-based support and patronage to enabling citizens to exercise the social rights enshrined in the Mexican Constitution by guaranteeing a minimum level of well-being for all. To that end, his Government had worked to consolidate successful cooperation and coordination among all relevant stakeholders in order to reduce inequality by targeting its resources and efforts; its national strategy on inclusion, which brought together 16 Government ministries, civil society organizations, businesses, academics and citizens, was one such initiative. Such coordination required improved planning, execution and assessment of actions to reduce poverty. To that end, Mexico was working with the World Bank on the construction of an integrated social information system that would serve as a single, accessible repository of information on potential and existing beneficiaries of social programmes. Given that such factors as low productivity, wage inequality and public insecurity lay beyond the scope of social policy, States had an obligation to enact inclusive, integrated policies. In that connection, Mexico pledged its full support to the Council in its efforts to implement and integrate the 2030 Agenda.

34. **Ms. Akhtar** (Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the

Pacific (ESCAP)), panellist, said that in order to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development smoothly and effectively, a holistic approach must be taken and the risks associated with globalization must be managed, including by promoting multilateralism as an anchor of global governance in order to regain the momentum of growth and trade. Poverty reduction in the Asia-Pacific region had largely resulted from high growth rates. Given their long-standing affiliation and proximity with economy and planning ministries, regional commissions were uniquely placed to assess how to promote integration, inclusivity and policy coherence. Intergovernmental and multisectoral platforms known as regional sustainable development forums had recently been established with a mandate to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

35. Member States from the Asia-Pacific region had formally agreed on a road map for their implementation. Its progress notwithstanding, the region remained home to 400 million poor. However, exclusive reliance on income to assess poverty had led to an underestimation of the obstacles to poverty eradication. Capturing the interlinked complexities of poverty, the multidimensional poverty index offered a comprehensive perspective of the magnitude of poverty. Using the index as a basis, the number of poor in the Asia-Pacific region rose to 900 million.

36. Substantive progress had been made towards formulating national development strategies, plans and budgets in line with the Goals and establishing coordinating institutional mechanisms. Nevertheless, substantive investments were still needed to develop the analytical frames that would promote sustainable development more effectively by exploiting and managing the interdependence, interlinkages and integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions. Doing so would, in turn, require an assessment of the sectoral or subsectoral policy tradeoffs and their implications within the three dimensions. The manner in which those dimensions and their multisectoral intersections and integration were managed to balance nature, economy, society and human well-being was central to sustainability. Nurturing the sectoral nexus to maximize the impact of development and promoting the efficient allocation and use of resources by changing incentives to alter consumption and production behaviour would enhance the impact of that sustainability.

37. By broadening the scope of integration, regional commissions had promoted cross-border connectivity, market integration and harmonized policy and regulatory frameworks across different sectors.

Improved regional coordination on macroeconomic questions would be vital. Regional cooperation and integration facilitated the implementation of transboundary Goals and fostered regional connectivity integration in a sustainable manner. While the multidimensional measurement of poverty captured the exclusion and marginalization of vulnerable groups, it was also critical to promote the institutionalization and coherence of strategies to reduce multidimensional poverty by using participatory approaches to promote integrated design, implementation and evaluation. Tapping the potential of integration would require, *inter alia*, promoting inter-sectoral policy and investment cooperation; formulating frameworks that integrated ecosystem services, environmental footprints, the human-nature nexus and planetary boundaries; and recognizing and quantifying the effects and the spatial and temporal implications of system-wide integration.

38. Integration must be promoted in order to enhance inclusivity, policy coherence and consistency while managing the broader sectoral and policy frameworks, with a view to maximizing the impact of development efforts. Regional commissions had a significant role to play in promoting integration through the development of common methodologies and tools to promote synergies in factor production use. Lastly, integration debates must extend to transboundary goals, which promoted different types of regional connectivity and had the potential to promote the development of sustainable corridors.

39. **Mr. Rattray** (Jamaica) said that relying exclusively on income as a measure of poverty severely underestimated the extent of the problem. As an upper-middle-income country, Jamaica had real problems of intra-country income inequality. For years, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean had been advocating a structural gap approach that took into account not only income per capita but also levels of investment, savings, innovation and expenditure on such social issues as health and education.

40. **Ms. Berar-Awad** (Director of the Employment Policy Department, International Labour Organization (ILO)), panellist, said that no matter how central employment was to development and poverty eradication, mere access to jobs did not suffice to lift people out of poverty. On the positive side, the persistence of complex employment challenges was prompting many countries to formulate comprehensive employment policies from an integrated perspective. The lessons learned from the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth and a multi-stakeholder

initiative on jobs for peace demonstrated the need for policy coherence in terms of content, ownership on the part of decision-makers involved in integrating policy strategies and institutional innovation, coordination, implementation and monitoring.

41. With respect to employment policies, it had become accepted that employment could no longer be regarded as a residual or automatic outcome of economic growth. Instead, a proactive approach must be taken in order to integrate goals and targets into national development plans and to put in place programmes and policies to achieve them, analyzing the coherence between macroeconomic frameworks, sectoral and investment strategies and supply-side initiatives. Such initiatives could include investments that targeted disadvantaged groups in the labour market with support programmes.

42. The quality and quantity of jobs constituted yet other aspects of integration. A rights-based approach would ensure that those employed — including the self-employed — would receive social protection and a living wage that enabled them to lift themselves out of poverty. Moreover, another important facet of integration involved creating an environment conducive to private sector investment in coherent strategies and the public policies to incentivize public-private partnerships in creating decent jobs. While integrating the many variables would be no easy task, several experiences illustrated that obstacles could be overcome. Broad-based participation, dialogue and consultation among the various stakeholders must take place before formulating and implementing a policy. Despite its difficulties, dialogue brought together different viewpoints and remained the best way to reach a common understanding on priority areas for integrated action.

43. Policy integration also required institutional innovation and coordination. Several countries had established policy coordination mechanisms on employment policy that brought together Government agencies, ministries of economy, finance, labour and social affairs, central banks and workers' organizations, among others. Such mechanisms operated better when they had oversight from the office of the president or prime minister, indicating genuine political commitment at the highest levels of Government.

44. Noting the difficulty of working concurrently towards such objectives as reducing inequality, improving resilience and livelihood and eradicating poverty, she stressed that employment policy should target not only economic aspects but social protection

for the employed and the unemployed, with a view to establishing baseline levels of job security. Policy integration must encompass a focus on people trapped in the informal employment-poverty nexus, with jobs, businesses or self-employment ventures that did not allow them to make significant improvements in their lives and societies. In that connection, she drew attention to the recently adopted ILO recommendation No. 204 concerning the transition from the informal to the formal economy which provided guidance around integrated strategies, highlighting the nexus of economic and productivity improvement, access to rights, access to social protection and a greater emphasis on the compliance culture.

45. Political commitment at the highest level, beyond election timelines, was the key to overcoming structural resistance to policy integration. Building the capacity of actors able to play a role in policy integration must be prioritized and invested in, with continuous monitoring and feedback from policy implementation to policy formulation. Lastly, tools must be placed at the disposal of policymakers in order to enable them to make informed choices. New pro-employment budgeting tools were being developed and launched. Policy coherence amongst the international community could also go a long way in supporting policy integration at the country level.

46. **Mr. Rattray** (Jamaica) said that the dilemma faced by countries including his own — required by the international financial institutions to pursue a macroeconomic policy characterized by extreme fiscal consolidation but also urged to mobilize domestic resources and invest them in various areas in order to implement the Sustainable Development Goals — underscored the practical difficulty of policy coherence.

47. **Mr. Vaughan** (President and Chief Executive Officer, International Institute for Sustainable Development), panellist, said that poverty reduction and sustainable development were inseparable. Hunger was a central aspect of poverty. With 20 million people in four countries facing famine, increasing urgent spending to save lives was an immediate priority. In addition, some 793 million people lacked sufficient food for a healthy and active life. The devastation wrought by food insecurity on infants and young children included such lasting effects as stunting and wasting. Investment in healthy food systems was needed to end both hunger and malnutrition.

48. His organization had estimated that an extra \$11 billion of public spending each year until 2030 would meet Goal 2; as \$4 billion would come from

donors and the remainder from countries, the additional expenditure would require a mere 3 per cent increase in official development assistance. The funds would be allocated to increasing social safety nets, providing practical on-farm support, improving rural development planning, improving support for nutrition and education, and introducing legal, policy and institutional reforms.

49. Irrigation was a vital form of on-farm support, as the three most important global breadbaskets were already strained from over-pumping and depletion. There was therefore an urgent need to better manage and conserve freshwater. Furthermore, with climate change projections affecting hydrological tables in virtually every country, irrigation efficiency must be increased. Coupled with other farming practices, precision irrigation systems had doubled yields in certain crops while reducing overall water use in irrigation systems by between 25 and 40 per cent.

50. Many countries were creating national climate change adaptation plans and putting them into action, with agriculture as a priority sector. Work was also underway in applying climate-resilient seeds and adjusting to less water-intensive crops. Innovative approaches to climate financing were being developed under a number of international frameworks. International financial institutions, among others, would be expected to take the lead by providing support. Efforts to ensure transparency and inclusivity in natural resource development, initiatives to capture dimensions of comprehensive wealth per capita beyond income, and the use of information technology applications to build bridges and foster action to implement the Goals illustrated practical, constructive approaches to integration.

51. **Mr. Rattray** (Jamaica) said that the high rates of non-communicable diseases linked to diet illustrated the need for coherence between trade and health policies and investment in healthy food systems.

52. **Mr. Shepherd** (Director, Chronic Poverty Advisory Network), panellist, accompanying his statement with a digital slide presentation, said that his organization had posited in its report on eradicating extreme poverty that tackling chronic poverty, stopping impoverishment and sustaining people's escapes out of poverty were the three fundamental actions required to eradicate poverty. Its research had shown that impoverishment, both of the newly poor and of those who had previously escaped poverty, was surprisingly strong. As impoverishment detracted from the net poverty reduction — escapes from poverty minus impoverishment — it followed that reducing

impoverishment would increase the rate at which people escaped poverty.

53. Preventing impoverishment was an objective less well served by comprehensive policy initiatives, with social protection, universal health coverage and disaster risk management — each effective preventive measures — varying greatly. Achieving the three objectives would require, *inter alia*, massive investments in education and sexual and reproductive health measures. The experience of many people stuck in poverty highlighted its multidimensional nature and the many facets of disadvantage. Countries whose poverty reduction efforts had succeeded had employed a combination of measures, including constitutional reform, increased political participation and a mix of universal and affirmative actions.

54. Citing examples of economic growth that favoured the poorest, he noted that countries that had achieved such progress had focused on human development more than on poverty reduction with a focus on income. Specifically, a larger, targeted investment in early education provided children from the poorest households, which typically lacked such coverage, with a good start in school and improved retention rates. In addition, initiatives to bolster the link between schools, the labour market and associated investments in technical and vocational education would help.

55. Overall, greater integration was needed in efforts to translate economic expenditure into inclusive economic growth. In particular, linking social protection with various economic activities, such as increasing the reach of the banking system through Government-to-people transfers into bank accounts, could promote financial inclusion. Assisting non-farm business owners with solid disaster risk management would encourage them to take risks in investing. The concept of linking protection with enterprise development and economic growth was worth exploring, and its implementation would depend largely on Government effectiveness. Government expenditure per poor person varied widely from country to country, as did the progress achieved towards poverty eradication, with neither necessarily depending on the income of a given country.

56. **Mr. Palma Cerna** (Honduras) said that it was particularly important for middle-income countries, where the highest concentration of poverty was concentrated, to take other factors beyond income in addressing poverty and measuring development, as each country had its specific challenges. Honduras had opted for a multidimensional model that would enable

it to be faithful to the principle of the indivisibility of the Goals. A year after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, he wondered what kind of mechanisms the United Nations development system intended to design and use to implement the Agenda in a multidimensional manner. Measuring poverty on the basis of income alone could conceal inequality in middle-income countries.

57. **Ms. Ha Thi Thanh Huyen** (Viet Nam) asked whether the Executive Secretary of ESCAP envisaged an expansion of the multidimensional poverty index beyond its current use to encompass such elements as vulnerability to climate change or employment. She would also like to know what its use by the United Nations system would look like.

58. **Mr. Shepherd** (Director, Chronic Poverty Advisory Network) said that his organization's policy guide on the experience of middle-income countries with poverty reduction had shown differences between East Asian and Latin American models of integration and sequencing of investments. In East Asia, the typical pattern had been one of massive investment in education and a strong emphasis on economic growth early on, followed by massive social protection and universal health investments 20 years later. In Latin America, expenditure had been more balanced and attended by lower rates of economic growth. Moreover, the two regions were a study in political contrasts.

59. While there was a continuing debate about the merits of the multidimensional approach to poverty versus that of the income-centred approach, any analysis of poverty and deprivation should elucidate their different dimensions. In that regard, the multidimensional approach was especially useful because it made it possible to examine different indicators and the relationship between them.

60. **Ms. Akhtar** (Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)) said that the appeal of the multidimensional poverty index resided in its relative simplicity. However, it was best to avoid excessive elaboration or expansion of that index because there was already an overwhelming amount of statistical activity underpinning the Sustainable Development Goals. In the Asia-Pacific region, only half of the Goal indicators were used, and the availability of data varied widely from region to region. Moreover, ESCAP had produced subcategories of indexes, including vulnerability, inclusiveness and climate vulnerability indexes, in order to get a sense of developments in the region. While she did recognize the value of the multidimensional index approach, it would be

important to understand its practical policy implications in order to avoid another pendulum swing, as well as to determine what purpose such indexes should ultimately serve.

61. **Ms. Berar-Awad** (Director of the Employment Policy Department, International Labour Organization (ILO)) said that one way of studying the various actions taken in support of the Sustainable Development Goals was to regard them as interrelated as were the Goals. The difference between the Sustainable Development Goals and the Millennium Development Goals was that the Sustainable Development Goals and their indicators were action-oriented; rather than examine results and statistics in isolation, the extent to which countries had adopted operational strategies in the relevant area was also assessed.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

**Economic and Social Council**

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Integration segment

Summary record of the 24th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 8 May 2017, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Munir (Vice-President)..... (Pakistan)

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General discussion

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In the absence of Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Mr. Munir (Pakistan), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 8: Integration segment (continued)

Panel discussion: "Policy integration across borders"

1. **Mr. Revkin** (Senior Reporter for Climate and Related Issues, ProPublica; former Reporter, New York Times; and former Senior Fellow for Environmental Understanding, Pace University), moderator, said that all areas of sustainability could contribute to poverty reduction and that sustainability was always improved by enhanced communication between disciplines and actors at the global, regional and municipal levels.

2. **Mr. Somavia** (Director, Diplomatic Academy of Chile; former Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on Interregional Policy Cooperation; former President of the Economic and Social Council; and former Director-General of the International Labour Organization), panellist, said that while efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals had taken the traditional sectoral approach, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system both called for an integrated approach to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. However, Governments, the United Nations system and other stakeholders did not yet have the capacity to achieve the level of policy integration necessary for sustainable development, in particular in the area of development cooperation. Crucially, the United Nations development system was not currently in a position to help Member States seeking assistance with policy integration. It must therefore develop its capacities in that area in order to provide that assistance and give credibility to the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, although a number of useful concepts, such as multidimensional poverty and gender mainstreaming, had been defined, the concept of policy integration itself still lacked conceptual clarity.

3. United Nations development efforts had gone through a number of phases over the years. The emphasis had for a long time been on coordination. However, while actors had paid lip service to coordination, they had generally been resistant to external coordination. The focus had then shifted to coherence. While coherence was important, it must be grounded in the principle that the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development were equal

and interdependent. Otherwise, a focus on coherence could allow unbalanced situations to arise in which economic policies set the boundaries for work that could be done on environmental and social issues. The emphasis had then shifted to cooperation. United Nations entities were cooperating, but their efforts fell short of policy integration because cooperation was limited to bilateral cooperation on particular issues. The shortcomings of that approach had led to the current move towards policy convergence, which was centred on common objectives. That was closer to policy integration, as it recognized that an objective could be achieved through a combination of policies in different areas. However, the weakness with that approach was that it was one-way: a phenomenon was recognized as multidimensional, but it was not taken into account that those individual dimensions were also multidimensional. Policy integration had to begin with a common understanding that the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development were of equal status and involve the establishment of a network of interconnected goals and targets that would succeed or fail together. Policy integration would be easiest for less developed countries, which were in a position to establish the proper balance early in the development process.

4. There were four main challenges that would have to be overcome to implement policy integration. First, a common understanding of the concept must be reached. Policy integration involved maximizing the potential of interactions between the economic, social and environmental dimensions to achieve a particular objective. The difficulty lay in that actors were specialists whose education had trained them to focus on their particular area of expertise. The United Nations would have to take on the role of thought leader to change that way of thinking. Steps had already been taken in that direction; for example, the 2016 United Nations Development Programme Regional Human Development Report for Latin America and the Caribbean focused on multidimensional progress, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs had issued a policy brief on concepts, tools and experiences in policy integration for sustainable development, and much good work had been done by the regional commissions. The second challenge was technical. It was not feasible to identify every linkage between social, environmental and economic dimensions of sustainable development. Instead, efforts should be made to identify a manageable number of critical linkages that would significantly contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Education was likely to be relevant for all of the goals, for example. The third challenge was institutional. It

had been recognized that Government departments, United Nations entities, businesses and civil society organizations acted only within their limited areas of expertise. To overcome that difficulty, decision-making had often been elevated to the level of the office of the Head of State of Government. However, decision-making should not be too far removed from those responsible for implementing the decisions; they were best placed to understand the intellectual, analytical and technical issues. The 2016 quadrennial comprehensive policy review resolution contained useful recommendations in that regard. The fourth challenge was to find a way to measure progress towards policy integration, which could not be done using traditional indicators.

5. It should be borne in mind that Government policies were short-term and State policies would last into the medium term, but the ultimate goal was for sustainable development to become the norm. Therefore, when developing policies on a particular issue, it was important to consider whether a long-term view needed to be taken in order to change the general mindset of society on the matter.

6. There were several steps that the Council could take to promote policy integration. First, it could request the creation of a task force comprising experts from within and outside the United Nations to identify relevant experiences and formulate recommendations on how to address the above-mentioned challenges, for consideration at the 2018 integration segment. Second, the Council, with the support of the regional commissions, could ask countries to provide an analysis of the practical ways in which they were already working towards policy integration and what support they might need, for discussions in the regional forums on sustainable development. The regional commissions could then create a joint outcome document. Third, countries engaged in development cooperation could evaluate how those policies could be reoriented to support the policy integration efforts of States and the United Nations system. Fourth, the various United Nations statistics bodies developing sustainable development indicators could all be involved in the development of indicators or other assessment criteria for measuring progress on policy integration. The documents resulting from those four initiatives would represent substantial progress in terms of analysis and would be very useful at the Council's policy integration segment in 2018.

7. While the challenge of achieving policy integration might seem daunting, the biggest challenge, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, had already been overcome. That momentous advance should not be

allowed to be undermined by a failure to address much smaller, but very important, hurdles.

8. **Mr. Revkin** (Senior Reporter for Climate and Related Issues, ProPublica; former Reporter, New York Times; and former Senior Fellow for Environmental Understanding, Pace University) said that it would be important to reach out to external institutions that were experiencing similar challenges to those faced by the United Nations, such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. There were also interesting experiments underway to bring together countries from different regions that faced similar issues, such as the meeting for tropical countries that would be hosted by the Earth Observatory of Singapore later in 2017.

9. **Ms. Fernando** (Senior Research Professional, Centre for Poverty Analysis, Sri Lanka), panellist, said that attempts to integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development had been made before, but primarily in the context of specific, short-term projects. Currently there was a high-level mandate for it, and the irrefutable evidence of climate change was providing additional momentum. However, there was a danger that the obligation to implement integration within a limited time frame and with limited resources could result in States choosing the easiest or most superficially logical areas to integrate rather than developing a properly thought-out strategy.

10. Her presentation would focus on content coherence, although process coherence and monitoring and review coherence were also important. Content coherence must be implemented within policies, meaning that each individual policy should cover all three dimensions of sustainable development. There must also be coherence across sectors, which would involve determining the potential positive and negative impact of actions in one sector on other sectors. There must also be coherence between national and international policies.

11. There were a number of essential elements that must be considered to ensure sustainability. Current efforts to create sustainable systems were not taking due account of the finite nature of natural resources. There should also be a greater focus on ecosystem stability, which was a prerequisite for economic growth and poverty eradication. Inequality was another significant issue, but fortunately there was general recognition that sustainable development could not be achieved without addressing that problem. It was also important to bear in mind that sustainable development must be non-linear. If initial efforts were overly focused on economic growth, environmental and social

problems would be created that would be difficult to address at a later stage.

12. Sri Lanka had some useful experience to share in the area of policy integration. The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife had mapped the national Ministries and their subordinate departments against the Sustainable Development Goals to identify gaps and determine where entities were already well placed to implement elements of the Goals. In addition, her organization had co-led an exercise that used a simple network analysis tool downloaded from the Internet to explore the relationship between Sri Lankan energy policies and the Sustainable Development Goals, on the basis of government policy documents. One finding was that the country's energy policies were not well linked to the transport, agricultural and industrial sectors. With regard to methodology, network analysis was an effective way to identify linkages and could be done through simple, readily available tools. Policy documents were useful for analysis because they were easily accessible and the Government could be held accountable for them; however, policy documents from different departments had varied greatly in terms of detail and the time frame taken into consideration. The accuracy of network analysis exercises could be improved by including persons involved in the design and implementation of policies in the process.

13. One challenge to the implementation of policy integration was achieving the necessary political will. While most Governments had committed to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, it was difficult for some to imagine that sustainable development policies could take precedence over economic policies. It would be important to provide incentives, as attempts to impose sustainable development through regulatory measures had not been successful. Sustainable development must also be linked to budgets and finances. The concept of sustainable development had existed for some time, but it had generally fallen within the purview of environment ministries, which tended not to have a great deal of influence on budget and overall planning processes. It would also be necessary to make changes to the school and university systems to ensure that, in the long term, economists were more familiar with environmental issues.

14. It might be useful to approach policy integration by focusing on a number of very influential sectors, in particular the energy sector. Energy was clearly linked to all three dimensions of sustainable development: it was the cause of climate change, the driver of the economic system and an essential tool for improving living standards. The United Nations development

system must also become more integrated and move away from providing aid packages that were earmarked for use in a specific sector.

15. It would be a challenge to ensure that all sectors supported the ultimate goal of sustainability. However, the extremely broad scope of the Sustainable Development Goals meant that objectives in any policy area were relevant to them and could be dealt with in the framework of the 2030 Agenda, which opened the door to many opportunities.

16. **Mr. Marroquin** (Specialist in cross-border management, Tri-National Commission of the Trifinio Plan), panellist, said that the Trifinio Fraternidad transboundary biosphere reserve spanned strategically significant parts of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Poverty in the tri-border area put a strain on natural resources as populations competed over water, food and forest resources. As a result, local populations had few economically viable opportunities to end the cycle of environmental degradation and poverty in the region. The integration taking place under the Trifinio Plan was recognized globally as one of the most successful examples of cross-border cooperation on water. Cross-border issues were rarely taken into account in national political agendas, but cross-border poverty was a real problem and regional mechanisms to promote sustainable development in border areas would find cross-border cooperation a useful tool.

17. When attempting to address such issues, it was important to align local and regional policies with international policies and to enhance the participation of regional actors in the development of international policies. Cross-border issues should be considered a determining factor in sustainable development, and regional mechanisms to promote cross-border development should be promoted. Cross-border cooperation in the tri-border area had been strengthened by a high degree of participation from local actors, including local governments and civil society. High-level participation was also important, which was why the Tri-national Commission of the Trifinio Plan was headed by the Vice-Presidents of the participating countries. A legal framework for development cooperation had been established through the adoption of a treaty between the three States, which meant that national institutions could be held accountable for promoting development in the region and made it possible to communicate the requests of local actors to national institutions. Cross-border policies had been implemented in the region for three decades. Successful implementation had required the support of the national authorities and the political will of all parties to engage in constructive dialogue and

reach agreements. Institutions with specific authority for the region had helped processes run smoothly and facilitated agreements between sectors. It had also been important to maintain ongoing dialogue spanning the local, national and international levels.

18. Cross-border regions were highly susceptible to outbreaks of conflict over natural resources such as water, but the capacity of the Tri-national Commission to involve national institutions in cross-border issues had prevented such crises on a number of occasions. Policy integration had also created economic opportunities for local communities, in particular through a public-private partnership involving international and local actors to develop a profitable and sustainable coffee industry in the tri-border area. In cooperation with national institutions, issue-specific committees had been created to facilitate regional-level discussions on policies and sustainable development in areas such as water, tourism and protected lands.

19. One of the lessons that had been learned through the process was that a formal agreement between Governments, such as the treaty adopted by El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras in 1997, was key to facilitating action. The official designation of an area as a strategic region gave it added value. Another lesson learned was that local actors must be involved and well organized. The establishment of regional structures to address specific issues was very important. Scientific research was necessary to establish a solid basis for plans, strategies and policies. In the case of the Trifinio Fraternidad transboundary biosphere, universities from the three countries had carried out joint studies that led to the adoption by the local authorities of a number of policies to protect transboundary resources such as aquifers. It should be borne in mind that the impact of cross-border issues went beyond the immediate area. For example, 40 per cent of the water produced in the Trifinio Fraternidad biosphere region was consumed in San Salvador, so a water crisis in the region would cripple the capital city.

20. Challenges in implementing such an approach included maintaining a dialogue at the highest levels while also ensuring local ownership and the participation of local stakeholders in policy development. It should also be borne in mind that addressing the effects of climate change required innovative tools and mechanisms to ensure food security in protected areas. Bolder and more strategic technical and financial mechanisms were needed to provide livelihood opportunities for local populations.

21. It was logical to consider cross-border issues in efforts to promote sustainable development, given that

poverty had no borders. A cross-border perspective would help to address phenomena such as migration between neighbouring countries driven by a lack of employment opportunities on one side of the border. It was important to build local, national and regional capacities to implement policies, and to improve planning and monitoring systems.

22. **Mr. Palma Cerna** (Honduras) said that the 2016 United Nations Development Programme Regional Human Development Report for Latin America and the Caribbean provided valuable insights into multidimensional development and alternative means of measuring poverty. The regional commissions were well placed to analyse poverty and international cooperation at the regional level. Discussions on integration should take into account not only cooperation between States but also cooperation between the different bodies of their development partners, in particular the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies.

23. **Trifinio Fraternidad** transboundary biosphere reserve, the first transboundary biosphere reserve in Latin America, was an example of successful integrated, sustainable natural resource management and cooperation between States. As a result of its success, it had been included in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) list of internationally recognized biosphere reserves in 2011 and received support from other States, including an investment of €11 million from the Government of Germany. The cooperation between the three countries could serve as a model to help entities of the United Nations development system break down silos.

24. **Mr. Molina Linares** (Guatemala) said that sustainable economic development was a priority for his Government. The Plan Trifinio enhanced the productive capacity of the local population without damaging its natural resources. It also promoted integration by facilitating flows of persons, goods, services and information across borders in the region and enhanced economic complementarity and social and cultural interaction among the three concerned States, enabling them to better work together in pursuit of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty.

25. **Mr. Soriano Mena** (Observer for El Salvador) said that the preservation of natural resources such as water, soil, flora and fauna in the Trifinio Fraternidad transboundary biosphere reserve area was only possible through the establishment of socioeconomic conditions that met the needs of the local populations. The community must also understand that it would reap the benefits of sustainable development only if the

ecosystem was used rationally. The policies and actions used to implement the 2030 Agenda should reflect the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals.

26. **Ms. Mucavi** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) said that food, water, energy and climate change were interdependent and must therefore be considered together. It was essential to have national and international coordination mechanisms in place to ensure that an approach focusing on the nexus between those elements was taken into account in the management of national and transboundary resources. Furthermore, development actors should conduct a context-specific assessment of that nexus when planning new policies, strategies, investments and technical activities. That would involve identifying the interactions between the water, energy, food and climate systems in the particular context, evaluating the effectiveness of the planned actions on that basis and determining how to manage trade-offs and foster synergies between sectors.

27. The Global Framework for Action to Cope with Water Scarcity in Agriculture in the Context of Climate Change, launched by FAO and its partners in 2016, called for urgent action in the face of climate change and increasing competition for water resources. The sustainable pathway to food security in the context of water scarcity lay in maximizing benefits that cut across multiple dimensions of the food-water-climate nexus to enable sustainable agricultural production while reducing vulnerability to increasing water scarcity. The FAO regional water scarcity initiative in the Near East and North Africa was already helping a number of States to address the issue by enhancing water accounting, monitoring safe consumption boundaries and adopting technological, governance and policy measures to increase the efficiency of water use in agriculture.

General discussion

28. **The President** invited the Council to begin its general discussion on the theme of the integration segment, "Making eradication of poverty an integral objective of all policies: what will it take?"

29. **Mr. Sevilla Borja** (Observer for Ecuador), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the eradication of poverty was the greatest challenge facing the world but was essential for sustainable development, particularly in Africa, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and middle-income countries, countries and peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation

and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations. It was deeply regrettable that 13 per cent of the world's population still lived in extreme poverty and that the world was not on track to eradicate poverty by 2030. The ongoing global financial and economic crisis, which had been caused by developed countries, was reversing the modest gains that had been made by developing countries and pushing a growing number of their inhabitants into extreme poverty.

30. In order for economic growth to contribute to poverty reduction, it was essential to reduce inequality and promote the development of appropriate social protection measures by focusing macroeconomic and social policies on job creation and social inclusion. The Group called for the mobilization of adequate and predictable resources to enable developing countries to end poverty. With regard to official development assistance, developed countries should not only honour their existing commitments but also increase their contributions in order to play a meaningful role in eradicating poverty.

31. The Group welcomed the significant contribution of South-South cooperation to efforts to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development and encouraged developing countries to voluntarily step up their efforts to strengthen such cooperation. South-South cooperation was a collective endeavour based on the principle of solidarity. It was not a substitute for North-South cooperation, which should also be improved and amplified.

32. The Group stressed the need to enable Governments of developing countries to design their own development strategies and policy tools in line with their national priorities, characteristics and circumstances. The support of the United Nations systems and other international partners, backed by firm commitments to provide financial and technological resources, was crucial in order to bring about the necessary structural changes through people-centred economic and social policies designed to promote inclusive growth, job creation, investment in education, health care and infrastructure, the empowerment of women and the establishment of social safety nets. Through collective action and cooperation in good faith, it would be possible to create a world that was free of poverty, promoted equal opportunities for all and enjoyed social justice.

33. **Mr. Soriano Mena** (El Salvador), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions should continue

to be the highest priority of the United Nations and an underlying objective of all its work.

34. Official development assistance and South-South and triangular cooperation, as a complement to North-South cooperation, were crucial to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The specific challenges and realities of each State must also be taken into consideration. To that end, concessional and non-concessional international financing should be increased and used alongside national resources to build capacities at the country level. There was also a need to develop transparent means of measuring progress on sustainable development, taking into account poverty in all its forms and dimensions and structural gaps at all levels. Decisions by donor countries and international agencies concerning official development assistance should be based on transparent methodologies that took into account the multidimensional nature of development. CELAC countries had made much progress but still required official development assistance to reduce inequality and structural gaps and build capacities for sustainable development. They therefore reiterated their call for developed countries to fulfil their commitment to allocate 0.7 per cent of their gross domestic product to official development assistance. They also called on the United Nations development system, international financial institutions, regional organizations and other stakeholders to take due account of the diverse and particular development needs of CELAC countries in their strategies and policies, in order to promote a broad and coherent approach to sustainable development.

35. In accordance with the CELAC Special Declaration on financing for development, those countries called for work to continue towards creating an environment that would foster sustainable development and enable the challenges relating to financing for development to be overcome. They also reaffirmed the commitments undertaken in the various international instruments on financing for development. The approach to sustainable development should be integrated and holistic and focus equally on the three dimensions of sustainable development.

36. Faced with the continuing challenges of poverty, food insecurity and hunger, CELAC countries reiterated their commitment to eliminate hunger in the region, including by strengthening the CELAC Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger 2025. They also recognized the need for gender equality and equity to remain key elements of discussions of development and the importance of breaking down the structural gender inequality that perpetuated the cycle

of poverty, marginalization and inequality. To be effective, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other relevant international agreements must be people-centred and human-rights based, include a gender perspective and promote the global structural changes that were needed to eradicate poverty.

37. **Mr. Begeç** (Observer for Turkey), speaking also on behalf of Australia, Indonesia, Mexico, and South Korea, said that progress towards poverty eradication had not proceeded at the desired pace in many parts of the world, with one in ten persons still living on under \$1.90 per day. Economic shocks, food insecurity and climate change were reversing hard-won gains and could force many people back into poverty. The best way to address poverty and inequality was to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals into national development plans and strategies, with a view to transforming economies in such a way as to promote inclusive growth and the creation of decent jobs. While national ownership of that process was essential, poverty eradication was also a shared responsibility that would require international assistance, including the provision of the promised official development assistance. It was also important to mobilize additional concessional and non-concessional financing from public and private domestic and international sources and enhance South-South and triangular cooperation.

38. The implementation of rigorous and well-defined means of measuring multidimensional poverty would contribute to the development of more effective national and international policies. Reliable disaggregated data relating to the various areas covered by the Sustainable Development Goals would be needed to ensure that specific action was taken to benefit women, youth, children, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, older persons, migrants and rural populations. It was also important to support efforts in less developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries emerging from conflict, and to recognize the structural gaps that were putting constraints on development in middle-income countries.

39. The accumulated expertise of the United Nations development system meant that it was well positioned to contribute to sustainable development. To do so, it should provide integrated strategic analysis and policy advice and facilitate resource mobilization. Entities of the system should contribute their unique expertise to collaborative efforts aimed at achieving shared objectives.

40. **Ms. McGuire** (Observer for Grenada), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that the integrated approach to poverty eradication

called for in the 2030 Agenda was very important to Caribbean States, as the economic and social challenges they faced were exacerbated by environmental challenges. Coastal erosion, saltwater intrusion into agricultural land and aquifers, the increased frequency and intensity of drought, flooding, hurricanes and tropical storms were undermining efforts to eradicate poverty. There was also a risk that the submarine volcano Kick 'em Jenny could erupt, with disastrous consequences for the entire subregion.

41. CARICOM countries had undertaken a number of measures to mitigate the effects of climate change and achieve sustainable development and would continue to work to integrate climate change and disaster resilience strategies, policies and plans from various sectors, with an emphasis on gender equality. To ensure long-term sustainable development, efforts to exploit natural resources would be accompanied by awareness-raising and educational activities, and institutional capacity-building would take place to promote the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of ecosystems and natural resources.

42. CARICOM member States were actively seeking to improve data collection, analysis and use in order to establish more transparent and equitable governance and develop evidence-based policies. They were also working to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals into national plans and strategies. Variables such as access to social protection, household headship characteristics and assets were taken into account when measuring poverty in order to take into account all its dimensions. Those efforts would enhance the quality of and increase access to social protection services and systems and enhance the economic participation and social inclusion of the most vulnerable groups. CARICOM countries were particularly grateful to the Government of Chile for its support for those efforts and its commitment to South-South cooperation.

43. As part of its multidimensional approach to poverty reduction, CARICOM was developing a harmonized regional legislative framework for citizen security to tackle the problem of drug trafficking through the region and the resulting violence and crime, which particularly affected young men. In that connection, it was also working to build the capacity of young people, in particular for those from marginalized or vulnerable communities, to advocate for policy change.

44. **Mr. Locsin** (Observer for the Philippines) said that his country's economy was one of the strongest in Asia but, owing to the nature of postmodern economics, most of the wealth that had been generated

was in the hands of a small proportion of the population, while the poor were unable to improve their situations. His Government had developed plans to address that imbalance through the establishment of a high-trust society that was resilient to change and cooperative in the face of challenges. His Government also aimed to develop a globally competitive knowledge economy that would promote equitably shared progress and prosperity. It had set a goal of reducing the poverty rate from 21 per cent to 14 per cent by 2022, which would involve lifting 6 million people out of poverty by increasing jobs and salaries in urban and rural areas, encouraging innovation and increasing the support of the people for their democratically elected Government. Combating crime and drugs was a high priority for his Government, which would not legalize criminal activity or tolerate immoral and life-destroying activities. The poverty reduction strategy would also include measures to improve education, build infrastructure to promote development in urban and rural areas, and help people become more adaptable in terms of finding new ways to generate income and adapting existing processes to make the most of technology. There would also be an emphasis on inclusive financing, in order to promote entrepreneurship. The overarching aim was to enable every individual to achieve a sense of personal fulfilment from their life and work. Development efforts would have either a positive or a negative impact on current and future generations across the globe, depending on whether development was sustainable or unsustainable. That was why sustainable, people-centred development was so important.

45. **Mr. Mahmudaminov** (Observer for Tajikistan) said that millions of people around the world were still suffering from poverty and hunger. Two years had already passed since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, and the challenges would only become more complicated unless they were addressed urgently through coordinated and concerted action to eradicate poverty. It was particularly important to work to ensure that countries in special situations, such as less developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, were able to achieve that goal.

46. Poverty eradication was a priority for his Government, which had adopted a number of successive poverty eradication strategies and a strategy to improve well-being. Efforts had focused on areas such as ensuring macroeconomic stability, developing the private sector with a view to attracting greater investment, diversifying the economy and strengthening the social partnership strategy. Drawing on lessons

learned from previous experience, recent strategies had included measures to strengthen coordination between the national and municipal governments, and indicators had been made more measurable and realistic. As a result of his Government's efforts, the poverty level had fallen from 72 per cent in 2003 to 31 per cent in 2015 and the average salary was currently 60 times greater than it had been two decades earlier.

47. It must be borne in mind that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals would be difficult for countries in special situations. His country was still unable to meet the national demand for electricity in winter, which complicated efforts to eradicate poverty. However, his Government was committed to achieving its goals of doubling the gross domestic product, halving poverty and substantially expanding the middle class by 2020, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

48. **Mr. Mminele** (South Africa) said that poverty eradication was a cross-cutting element of the 2030 Agenda. The Agenda had a similar focus to his Government's national development plan, which focused on tackling the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment that plagued developing countries. The strategy for implementing the national plan involved moving from short-term, symptom-based policies to a long-term approach based on sound evidence and logic. The overall objective was to provide a decent standard of living for all citizens. Actions undertaken covered a wide range of areas, including education, health, safety and security, employment, skills development, infrastructure and rural development, and were designed to ensure seamless implementation of the national development plan, the 2030 Agenda and the African Union Agenda 2063. His country also had a progressive, pro-poor tax system which, in combination with the enormous expansion of the national social support scheme since 2000, had already lifted millions of people out of poverty. Collective and measurable actions from all sectors of society would be needed to transform the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable in a sustainable manner, as highlighted by Governments and international stakeholders from the business sector and civil society at the twenty-seventh session of the World Forum on Africa in May 2017.

49. His delegation was concerned that rapidly increasing levels of poverty, inequality and underdevelopment and the ongoing struggle for access to basic services and scarce resources continued to hinder global development, even as the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty was coming to a close. His delegation therefore called on

the international community to remain resolute in its commitment to improving the lives of the poor and marginalized, including through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. His Government was committed to eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, a goal that should be the primary focus of the United Nations development system.

50. **Mr. Sobral Duarte** (Brazil) said that an integrated approach was needed to address multidimensional poverty and achieve sustainable development. The development in recent years of tools and political commitments to promote integration was a positive step in that direction, but there was still a need for more effective action and structural change. The submission of 44 voluntary national reviews in advance of the meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in July 2017 was a reassuring sign of the commitment of Member States to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and the exchange of experiences and challenges would be a valuable tool for promoting sustainable development. It was important for all States, including developed countries, to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.

51. He urged Member States to ensure that the set of Sustainable Development Goal indicators adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2017 was adopted by the Council and the General Assembly before the upcoming meeting of the high-level political forum, so that Member States and the United Nations system could begin to gather data to evaluate their progress.

52. The structure of the United Nations must adequately reflect the content of the 2030 Agenda. Decisions and actions of the system should be informed by the evaluation of past policies and programmes and involve all relevant stakeholders. The system should also be open to innovative ideas and technologies. United Nations agencies, funds and programmes should contribute to the establishment of an enabling international environment that promoted poverty eradication and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. There was also a need to establish more multi-stakeholder partnerships, while taking into account the differing roles and responsibilities of public and private actors. His delegation called for a significant mobilization of resources to help developing countries implement poverty eradication policies and programmes. In that connection, developed countries should respect the commitments they had made with regard to official development assistance, and ensure that the follow-up to the forum on financing for development was effective. Brazil also supported the call for the

declaration of a third United Nations decade for the eradication of poverty beginning in 2018.

53. **Mr. Gayito** (Observer for Ethiopia) said that it was unacceptable that 800 million people were living in poverty in a world with abundant resources. Eradicating poverty would require the establishment of a collaborative partnership involving all Member States and stakeholders to implement the 2030 Agenda. The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development should also be revitalized, with a view to translating commitments into actions in support of national endeavours. While bringing about the necessary changes the global environment, which was currently characterized by slow economic growth, conflict, humanitarian crises and climate change, might seem like a daunting task, the achievements of the past 25 years should inspire the international community to redouble its efforts to tackle poverty.

54. In keeping with its view of poverty as an existential threat, his Government's policies had since 1991 been grounded in the overall objective of reducing poverty and achieving rapid, sustained and inclusive development. As a result of the integration of agricultural, industrial and environmental policies, in particular in the past 15 years, the poverty rate in his country had halved, per capita income and human development had significantly improved, foreign direct investment was growing and the economy was experiencing structural transformation. Ethiopia's economy was one of the fastest growing in the world, with an average annual growth rate of 10.9 per cent. That growth was the result of its long-term national vision of establishing a climate-resilient middle-income economy by 2025. One of the drivers of its structural transformation was its industrialization strategy, which promoted increased agricultural production alongside sustainable industrialization. His Government was also investing heavily in social and physical infrastructure, diversifying the economy, enhancing productive capacity and competitiveness, creating an enabling business environment, in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises, and participating in public-private partnerships that were in the public interest. Social safety nets had been established to protect vulnerable groups. His Government was also engaging in North-South and South-South cooperation in a manner that furthered the national development priorities.

55. That progress notwithstanding, his country continued to face a number of development challenges, including poverty, the adverse effects of climate change, a lack of good governance, weak institutional capacity and insufficient funding for development.

However, his Government was committed to redoubling its efforts to reduce poverty, create jobs, in particular for youth and women, ensure food security and accelerate inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Eradicating multidimensional poverty around the world would require a combination of concerted national and global actions.

56. **Ms. Mendoza Elguea** (Observer for Mexico) said that the number of people living in poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean had increased from 168 million in 2014 to 175 million in 2015. Eradicating poverty and inequality would require integrating the Sustainable Development Goals in national development plans, with a view to transforming economies to promote inclusive development and job creation. Efforts to combat poverty and inequality and promote access to justice, social rights and people-centred public policies continued to be priorities for her Government, which had recently established a National Council on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in order to ensure that implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals would become a long-term commitment of all levels of the Government and Mexican society.

57. Her Government had been working to align its social policies with best practices and the commitments undertaken under the Millennium Development Goals and, more recently, the Sustainable Development Goals, in order to achieve sustainable and inclusive development. That had involved the implementation of a rigorous methodology for measuring multidimensional poverty, which her delegation hoped would be adopted by all United Nations agencies and programmes to enable more accurate comparison and analysis.

58. Public policies to tackle poverty and inequality should pay particular attention to vulnerable groups such as women, indigenous populations, migrants, persons with disabilities, youth, children and older persons. It was also important to take into account the structural gaps impeding development in middle-income countries, which were home to 73 per cent of the world's poor. Her country was committed to ending poverty and leaving no one behind.

59. **Mr. Pinheiro** (International Labour Organization) said that in 2016, 3 in 10 working men and women in developing and emerging countries were unable to lift themselves and their families above the moderate poverty line of \$3.10 per day. Six in 10 workers in sub-Saharan Africa and almost 5 in 10 in Southern and South-East Asia were expected to still be experiencing that level of poverty in 2018. The number of workers living below the extreme poverty line of \$1.90 per day

was set to fall over the next two years in both of those regions, but would still include nearly a third of workers in Africa and 15 per cent of workers in Southern Asia in 2018.

60. Decent work was the most sustainable route out of poverty. Poverty eradication therefore required increasing opportunities for decent work, increasing income from work and building and strengthening social protection systems, which should include mechanisms to support children and the elderly. Since poverty was largely concentrated in rural areas, harnessing the potential of rural work, including by moving from informal to formal economies, was key to sustainable development and leaving no one behind. Discrimination and marginalization in societies was reflected in labour markets. In order for decent work to become the norm, countries needed not only to create good quality jobs but also to focus on specific actions targeting populations that faced disadvantages on the labour market, or were excluded from it altogether.

61. Social protection floors were fundamental to preventing and reducing poverty across the life cycle and ensuring that no one was left behind. They should include benefits for children, mothers with newborns, persons with disabilities and the unemployed. Well-designed social protection systems facilitated the transition from conflict to peace, promoted domestic consumption, built human capital and increased productivity. They therefore had a key role to play in reducing poverty and vulnerability, addressing inequality and enhancing inclusive economic growth in many developing countries.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.

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Integration segment

Summary record of the 25th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 9 May 2017, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Munir (Vice-President)..... (Pakistan)

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In the absence of Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Mr. Munir (Pakistan), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 8: Integration segment (continued)

1. **The President** said that the current theme of the Integration Segment, the eradication of poverty, spoke to the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and represented a multi-stakeholder approach to policy formulation.

Panel discussion: "National experiences"

2. **Ms. Thompson** (former Government Minister and Senator, Barbados, and former Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development), moderator, said that the composition of the panel represented the geographic diversity of Economic and Social Council Member countries. The panel was designed to focus on national experiences, which would provide crucial insight on gaps in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals platform. The international community must share experiences in order to identify successful policies and approaches while avoiding implementation pitfalls. The United Nations system must provide the level of support necessary to ensure that Member States were successful in crafting national initiatives for the achievement of the Goals.

3. **Mr. Saeed** (Permanent Representative of the Maldives to the United Nations), panellist, speaking as the Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), said that poverty eradication had been clearly highlighted in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway; the Alliance consequently worked to ensure coherence between the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda, both in terms of means of implementation and follow-up and review.

4. The first step to achieving integration among all three pillars of sustainable development was improving coordination and coherence at all governance levels while moving beyond silos; economic, social and environmental challenges must be considered as cross-cutting issues. In 2016, the Maldives had completed its first national dialogue on the Sustainable Development Goals, designed to identify gaps in mainstreaming the Goals and consequently to improve intersectoral coordination.

5. Greater human resources and technical capacities were needed to assist small island developing States and other developing countries to address

vulnerabilities, especially with regard to data collection and analysis. Following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, the remaining capacity deficiencies of many national statistical offices must be addressed by the United Nations and Member States as a priority.

6. The lack of available funding remained a major obstacle to pursuing new policy initiatives. Due to their small size, remote locations and vulnerability to natural hazards, small island developing States had difficulty attracting private investment. International public finance nevertheless remained a necessary component for the implementation of the Goals.

7. Oceans were the main poverty eradication resource available to small island developing States like the Maldives. His country was reliant on the fishing and tourism industries, which both required healthy oceans. Faced with such a narrow resource base, efforts at poverty eradication must go hand-in-hand with the sustainable use and conservation of oceans and seas, as well as the implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. In the Maldives, sustainable fishing was being ensured by permitting pole and line fishing and restricting other harmful methods. While tourism had prospered, careful attention was being paid to the protection of fragile ecosystems and the promotion of ecotourism and environmentally sound policies.

8. Like many small island developing States, his country faced limitations in public spending, as well as limited space and infrastructure to take action on climate change. However, it had committed to a green economy strategy that included projects such as the Scaling Up Renewable Energy Program in Low Income Countries.

9. The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Partnership Framework had seen the registering of 300 government and external actors and the creation of a steering committee based in New York as well as a reporting template. Alongside the SAMOA Pathway, the Partnership Framework sought to provide a forum for support and information sharing, as well as to encourage new projects and the tracking of their progress.

10. United Nations agencies must coordinate efforts to ensure funding, means of implementation, and capacity-building while remaining guided by national plans and priorities.

11. **Mr. Meza-Cuadra** (Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations), panellist, said that his country was often cited as a success in terms of

poverty eradication. In 2004, 70 per cent of Peruvians had lived in poverty, and 17 per cent in extreme poverty. Just 13 years later, only 20 per cent of Peruvians lived in poverty and fewer than 3 per cent suffered from extreme poverty. Such radical changes, however, had not merely been the result of macroeconomic policies. Despite a series of structural and political reforms in the 1990s, Peru had failed to reduce rural poverty during that time. Realizing that the existing model of economic development was flawed, starting in 2000 the Government had changed its approach and created the *Acuerdo Nacional*, whereby many long-term policies were developed with the input of civil society and a basic development consensus was reached. The *Acuerdo* was likewise accompanied by specific policies targeting rural areas in particular. Investments were made in infrastructure, telecommunications and sanitation to reach the most vulnerable populations and give them access to markets and revenue-generating activities. Programmes were later developed to address different age brackets, including children and pensioners. Consequently, it was important to note that poverty eradication in Peru had been the result of more than 20 years of macroeconomic policies combined with targeted programmes that went beyond monetary poverty measures.

12. Multidimensional poverty must continue to be further taken into account in Peru. For instance, chronic malnutrition and anaemia among indigenous peoples remained significant problems. Anaemia could not be reduced without coordinated integrated policies across many different sectors and ministries. Likewise, targeted programmes for the financial inclusion of rural communities had been launched using mobile phones and online money transfers.

13. Economic growth and macroeconomic stability had been essential for the success of Peru, but its alleviation of poverty could not have been accomplished without highly specific policies targeting vulnerable segments of the population. Moreover, the country still faced challenges, especially as 45 per cent of people were at risk of returning to poverty.

14. **Mr. Simanainen** (Social Security Institution, Finland), panellist, after showing a video introducing the basic income experiment in Finland, said that the experiment was not primarily a poverty reduction mechanism; its main goal was determining if basic income had a positive effect on the employment rate. Within the basic income model, which gave each participant €560 a month, there was no change in the income of the unemployed; individuals would only see

an increase in their income if they began employment during the experiment.

15. There were many limitations to the experiment. Its limited target group meant that there was no in-depth information on other potentially interesting population groups (employed middle-wage earners, for instance). As the experiment only tested one basic income model, no information could be gleaned on different tax rates or different basic income levels. Finally, the small nationwide sample meant that no data was included on spillover effects. It would be crucial to take those limitations into account before making any political decisions.

16. The experiment was also subject to constitutional limitations, as it was not morally possible to require compulsory participation in experimental conditions that would knowingly make some people worse off. Designing a treatment was just as difficult as designing a policy, and trials and preparation required significant time and resources. As experiments were a learning process, a series of experiments would be needed to obtain comprehensive information on system-wide changes. However, large-scale system reforms might prove to be too difficult for experimentation.

17. **Ms. Thompson** (former Government Minister and Senator, Barbados, and former Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development) said that with regard to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda, discussion had largely revolved around sound policymaking that was based on data, research and statistics. The basic income experiment in Finland was an extremely strong example of data-based policymaking. As billions of people still made less than \$2 a day, the issue of basic income was a recurring theme in discussions on sustainable development.

18. **Mr. Esteves** (BRICS Policy Centre), panellist, sharing the successes of Brazil in terms of poverty reduction, said that in 1990, 25 per cent of Brazilians had lived on less than \$1.25 a day; that figure was less than 4 per cent in 2012. Brazil had also pulled out of the hunger map during the 2000s as a result of two policies: the conditional cash transfer programme *Bolsa Familia* and the food security programme *Zero Hunger*. Launched in 2003, the conditional cash transfer programme had enrolled 14 million families and become the world's largest programme of the sort by 2012, with multiple knock-on effects on health, education and gender. The *Zero Hunger* programme had integrated a number of existing programmes in

food acquisition, farming and school feeding via an interministerial committee.

19. All of the poverty eradication policies adopted in Brazil had come from policy networks and were designed to be intersectoral; they were all managed through an interministerial steering committee. Institutional capacity had previously existed in Brazil, a country which already possessed a strong database about families living in poverty, data management procedures, food acquisition programmes and financial institutions; there were still a number of bottlenecks to overcome, however.

20. The role of the United Nations was precisely to help middle-income countries overcome such bottlenecks, not by implementing policies, but by supporting policy development, especially with knowledge management, assessment and monitoring. United Nations agencies had been critical for the success of Brazilian policies; they had collaborated with the Brazilian Government to create joint policy centres dedicated to establishing a bridge between domestic policy networks and international policy centres. Two of these centres were the International Poverty Centre for Inclusive Growth, created with the United Nations Development Programme, and the Centre of Excellence against Hunger, created with the World Food Programme. Both programmes supported domestic policies with monitoring and assessing results; they also helped with diffusing those policies around the developing world. Both policy centres promoted South-South cooperation as a means to fight poverty and hunger. However, contrary to what had been initially believed, Brazilian policies could not be easily transferred to other national contexts, as no other area in the developing world had the institutional framework to allow for the implementation of the same policies. However, policy dialogue had been fostered with many countries in Africa. The Brazilian Government now believed in promoting policy dialogue rather than transfer and called the new modality trilateral cooperation. Such cooperation comprised a dialogue between beneficiary countries, international organizations (or other bilateral agencies) and the Brazilian Government.

21. **Mr. Sambili** (Economics Department, Egerton University, former Deputy Governor, Central Bank of Kenya), panellist, said that his country's experience in terms of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals necessarily remained limited at the time. As the Goals had been designed in an interconnected fashion, they called for a deliberate integration of policies. Integration would result in simultaneous achievement of many objectives, maximize the use of available

resources, minimize sectoral approaches and eliminate waste and duplication of efforts.

22. Some of the best practices in Kenya included the creation of an inter-agency technical committee that included governments, development partners, non-governmental organizations, trade partners, the Council of Governors and the private sector. Also, the Government had signed a memorandum of understanding with the internet provider Safaricom, which had enabled the transmission of messages regarding the Sustainable Development Goals to over 25 million subscribers. The implementation of the Goals was moreover being mainstreamed into national planning frameworks that allowed for sustainable budgeting and tracking.

23. Poverty reduction had been one of the Government's main focuses for the previous two decades. An integrated social protection policy had been launched through an inclusive process that provided a transparent and shared platform for knowledge sharing. All cash transfer activities were included on the same platform.

24. To address the social dimensions of poverty reduction, Kenya provided free primary education and full subsidies for secondary school tuition. A number of specialized programmes also targeted marginalized areas, such as the 10-year Common Programme Framework for Ending Drought Emergencies, a collaborative framework that involved the United Nations, development partners, the Kenyan Government, civil society and local communities. Other programmes addressed the economic dimensions of poverty and the challenge of widespread unemployment, further complicated by negative attitudes towards work among youth and corruption. Consequently the Government had renewed its emphasis on technical education and expanded its national youth service programmes. It provided highly subsidized revolving funds to youth, women and persons with disabilities. It reserved 30 per cent of Government contracts for those groups and ensured that at least 30 per cent of public sector positions were held by women.

25. In terms of the environmental dimensions of poverty reduction, the Government had launched a number of tree planting and nurturing programmes. It supported community-driven forest management and conservation and had developed a major rural electrification programme to reduce the use of charcoal and firewood.

26. The Government had transformed national revenue collection by establishing the iTax system, a

user-friendly tax collection system that integrated data from multiple sources. The use of information and communications technologies in Kenya had empowered many young people, reduced the cost of doing business and promoted financial inclusion, especially through the use of mobile banking.

27. In terms of tackling the social dimensions of poverty, Kenya had begun to support specialized medical treatments under its national health insurance framework. There was no age limit to receive such benefits and all unemployed persons were included. A devolved system of health services had also encouraged mobility among qualified doctors and nurses; localized incentives brought their expertise to rural and remote areas.

28. The country's limited capacity threatened the implementation and sustainability of such transformative programmes, while corruption continued to negatively impact the optimal use of resources. It remained difficult to obtain accurate data, in part due to a lack of research and analysis expertise. Rigid governmental systems and regional turf wars posed further challenges to poverty eradication in Kenya.

29. **Ms. Thompson** (former Government Minister and Senator, Barbados, and former Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Coordinator, United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development) said that financing had long been a significant issue for small island developing States, which faced unique challenges, limited capacity and vulnerability to external shocks. Given that small island developing States were increasingly graduating to middle-income status and receiving less official development assistance (ODA) and foreign direct investment despite still being in the throes of the recent financial crisis, financing for development posed several specific challenges. Panelists had described how innovative financing practices involved stamping out corruption, establishing partnerships with the private sector and strengthening the tax base. However, she wondered how relevant such innovative financing could be for small island developing States, which possessed small private sectors mostly composed of small and medium-sized enterprises and were unable to collect significant taxes.

30. **Mr. Saeed** (Permanent Representative for the Maldives to the United Nations) said that the biggest hurdle faced by small island developing States was their reclassification by international financial institutions and the United Nations system. The Maldives were a clear example of the challenges posed by graduating to middle-income status. Although his country had graduated in 2011, nothing had really changed on the ground; it was merely the country's

gross domestic product (GDP) that had increased. The Maldives continued to have a low economic base, poor transport, and no exports; in addition, the country now had limited access to concessionary loans. It was remarkable that his country had graduated to middle-income status, but it could never graduate from its status as a small island developing State.

31. The story of the graduation of the Maldives was illustrative: just six days after the Committee for Development Policy had decided to graduate the country to middle-income status, a tsunami had hit and washed away 60 per cent of the country's GDP in a single day. Small island developing States would always remain vulnerable to hurricanes, tsunamis and other natural disasters. Despite the fact that after Botswana, all the other countries to graduate to middle-income status had been small island developing States, the United Nations system still had a limited understanding of their specific vulnerabilities and relied too heavily on GDP as the sole indicator of status.

32. Small island developing States were also witnessing an unfortunate downward trend in ODA. As a result, many countries faced challenges in mobilizing domestic resources. The Maldives had a small tax base that did not really yield successful tax collection mechanisms.

33. Innovative financing could mean different things for small island developing States; his country, for instance, was considering non-traditional donors and new climate financing funds such as the Green Climate Fund. One successful programme that had been devised was the Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework, which included the Steering Committee on Partnerships for Small Island Developing States and an annual dialogue with all various international agencies, governments and civil society.

34. **Ms. Thompson** (former Government Minister and Senator, Barbados, and former Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development) said that recent right-wing political movements on the international stage and especially in the United States of America rejected the need for strong social security systems, including such active and direct government grants as poverty alleviation mechanisms and socialized health care. Given that the current political mood posed an overall challenge to the idea of social safety nets, she wondered if Finland and the other Nordic countries had continued to find such mechanisms helpful.

35. She would like to hear more about the effectiveness of direct financial grants as provided by the Bolsa Familia programme in Brazil, and about the issue of the abuse of financial support systems and on how to measure, identify and stamp out abuse so that direct aid went to those who truly needed it and individuals were transitioned from mendicancy to productivity.
36. **Mr. Simanainen** (Social Security Institution, Finland) said that research and practical experience proved that better health and equal access to education and employment reduced poverty. The debate thus only concerned which policies were the best to achieve poverty alleviation. The Finnish — and Scandinavian — way of tackling poverty was to concentrate on structural policy changes rather than on single actions. For example, the main objective behind education and health programmes and social insurance policies was that no one was left outside the system; even middle and high income groups were included. As a result, those funding the system considered it to be more legitimate.
37. The basic income experiment still marked a radical change for Finland, however. If it were to be applied nationwide, it would mean moving from an eligibility-based social security system to one where basic income was guaranteed without any conditions. However, all citizens would be eligible for the benefit and the system would have high coverage. Everyone would take part in the funding of the system, in accordance with their income level.
38. **Mr. Esteves** (BRICS Policy Centre) said that as an independent researcher, and not a member of the Brazilian Government, he had more room to manoeuvre. In terms of preventing abuse of the cash transfer programme, the database of those receiving grants was managed at the city level and could be viewed by all Brazilian citizens. Although the programme had been abused at the beginning, an increase in transparency had solved such problems.
39. Despite the fact that the natural evolution of government programmes in Brazil would suggest it should develop a universal basic income, there was currently no political space to discuss such a proposal.
40. The requirements of the conditional cash transfer programme — school attendance for children, immunizations and visits to healthcare clinics for families — would have important structural impacts on a developing country like Brazil. It was hoped that people would be empowered and could then graduate from assistance programmes.
41. In terms of assessment, a yearly household survey was conducted in Brazil that provided an enormous amount of data and illustrated the impact of poverty reduction programmes on women and children. Moreover, the policy centres operated in collaboration with the United Nations provided important comparative knowledge about different conditional cash transfer programmes across the world. Comparisons between Brazil and Mexico had been especially beneficial to both countries in that regard.
42. A random control trial in two African countries had compared in-kind versus cash grants and had determined that cash transfers were much more effective for small farmers than in-kind contributions.
43. **Mr. Thompson** (Former Government Minister and Senator, Barbados, and former United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Coordinator for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development) said that data made it possible to design strong policies.
44. How did inclusion, specifically of women, rural women, indigenous peoples and youth throughout the world, relate to poverty eradication? The financial crisis had affected populations globally, but it had hit those groups hardest; they were disproportionately unable to access work. She wondered how stronger partnerships could be built with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society and private sector actors to develop policies in support of the Sustainable Development Goals, and, more specifically, targeted policies that would assist excluded groups.
45. **Mr. Meza-Cuadro** (Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations) said that a major way in which the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development differed from the Millennium Development Goals was its focus on inclusion. Under the Millennium Development Goals, economic reforms in Peru had benefited cities but failed to reach the most vulnerable populations. For instance, girls with Quechua or Aymara as their first language were 15 times less likely to finish primary school than Spanish mother-tongue girls living in cities. Under the 2030 Agenda, the Government was running bilingual programmes in schools in regions where the first language was an officially recognized language other than Spanish. The Government was also pushing for the 2030 Agenda and associated development plans to be implemented not only at the national level, but also regionally and locally. The National Statistics Institute was working with local governments to combat chronic child malnutrition and anaemia, through a national

conditional cash transfer programme which monitored that parents took their young children to clinics regularly. Fine-tuning such policies was a complex task; all sectors should be involved in the effort, particularly the private sector.

46. The Government was also increasing the financial inclusion of rural populations through a programme that involved using mobile phones to bring banking services to the Peruvian Amazon region; within the next five years, 5 million people would be contacted. It was necessary to establish policies to ensure that the mining industry benefited the most vulnerable. In addition to paying taxes, mining companies should be obliged to use local services and purchase local products, in that way international industry would help rural communities.

47. **Ms. Thompson** (Former Government Minister and Senator, Barbados, and former United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Coordinator for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development) said that the mobile phone was a critical tool in developing countries; in Africa also, mobile phones were being used to give disadvantaged populations access to banking, and to other, more essential resources and services such as water, energy and education.

48. The concept of sustainable development was built on the integration of social, economic and environmental concerns. However, environmental sustainable development issues tended to be given short shrift because environment ministers were not usually powerful politicians; social issues were also frequently overlooked. She wondered how the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations more generally could help to deliver, at the national level, the integrated platforms for sustainable development that would bring those who controlled national coffers to the table, emphasizing for them the importance of issues relating to the environment and social growth.

49. **Ms. Sambelli** (Economics Department, Egerton University, and former Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya) said that governments would remain the primary drivers of policy direction. The development of Kenya's long-term strategy, Kenya Vision 2030, had been a structured, highly collaborative process involving actors from the private sector, civil society, universities and government ministries. Owing to the inclusive nature of the process, the programme had strong support.

50. Insufficient resources was the primary constraint on pursuing development. In order to determine how to

allocate resources the Government had developed a medium-term expenditure framework, which allowed for the ongoing review of priorities every three years. The Government, the private sector and civil society were brought together to focus on the Sustainable Development Goals in a technical working group co-chaired by the United Nations. Meetings of the group made it clear that Kenya Vision 2030 was aligned with the social and economic aspects of the 2030 Agenda, but fell short when it came to environmental issues; the problem was that the consequences of damage to the environment were not obvious in the short term. However, awareness was growing thanks to government efforts, and to natural disasters such as the ongoing drought in Kenya, which had shocked people into considering climate change.

51. Many environmental problems were caused by the need for energy: for example, people cut down forests to heat their homes. Through a rural electrification programme, electricity was gradually being provided to all schools; however, once a school was connected, the nearby homesteads also benefited. Solar energy was also gaining traction.

52. The Government's five-year medium-term plan was dovetailing with programmes under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. In terms of macroeconomic policy, the Government was trying to coherently tie spending to revenue collection. Performance contracts, which required each government ministry to state what would impact on its deliverables, were supporting coherence in the work of the Government. The system increased collaboration and reduced rivalry between the ministries.

53. **Mr. Almeida Cunha** (Costa (Brazil) said that his country attached great importance to a multi-stakeholder approach to poverty eradication. In Brazil, civil society played a major role in the design and evaluation of public policy, and it would have a vital role in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

54. **Ms. Johanson** (Norway) asked Mr. Simanainen to elaborate on the expected findings of the basic income experiment and how its results would be measured. Addressing all the panellists, she asked how those in poverty could best be involved in policy design.

55. **Mr. Simanainen** (Social Security Institution, Finland) said that the purpose of the experiment was to analyze the effect of monetary incentives on the employment rate. The income of employed persons would be higher than it was in the current system; previous empirical research led the team to believe that

the basic income would have a positive effect on the employment of the target group.

56. Other mechanisms could also affect employment levels. For example, the basic income scheme had no eligibility requirements, while in the current system individuals needed to be registered as unemployed job seekers. The unconditional nature of basic income might have a negative effect on employment. The problem with the experiment was that it was impossible to distinguish between the effects of the lack of conditions and the monetary incentive, which probably had opposite effects on the employment rate.

57. Follow-up of the experiment would be based on various official registers, such as tax and population registers and registers on the use of social benefits. The researchers would use them to obtain data on income, employment, use of other social benefits and such basic information as family situation. Data would also be collected directly through a questionnaire given to participants.

58. **Mr. Esteves** (BRICS Policy Center) said that in Brazil, beneficiaries were involved in the conditional cash transfer programme at the local level, mainly through schools. The food security programme involved beneficiaries at various stages: there were conferences in the leadup to its implementation, small farmers who were members of cooperatives took part in regular conferences on food security, and the National Council on Food and Nutrition Security, which was responsible for monitoring and proposing changes to the programme, worked with academia and NGOs. In addition, national social movements like the Landless Workers Movement, as well as international ones like La Via Campesina, took part in policy formulation.

59. **Mr. Sambili** (Economics Department, Egerton University, and former Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya) said that in Kenya decisions about school bursaries were taken by community committees, who knew well what each family needed. In addition, the Constituency Development Fund disbursed funding to local governments to be used for specific projects, such as building schools or hospitals. At the [micro level], there was county planning: communities determined what should be prioritized over the upcoming five years, and resources were allocated accordingly, area by area.

60. **Ms. Thompson** (Former Government Minister and Senator, Barbados, and former United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Coordinator for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development) asked how responsive the panellists'

local systems were to public opinion and the communities they served, and whether they included mechanisms for change. Given that many initiatives took place at the local level rather than the national level, she wondered how involved mayors and local governments were in the design and implementation of policy frameworks and poverty programmes.

61. **Mr. Sareer** (Permanent Representative of the Maldives) said that in the Maldives the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals was managed by a national steering committee. The committee's first round of national dialogue, in 2016, had been a success; it had served to identify gaps and decide how to mainstream areas requiring follow-up into government work. The committee had conducted considerable outreach to engage the island councils of the country's 186 inhabited islands, as well as city councils. Island women's development councils and youth councils were also involved in the process.

62. The Government was currently planning for the next dialogue, to be held later in 2017. There were no detailed mechanisms for engagement with civil society, but the Government was raising awareness about the Sustainable Development Goals, in schools and among NGOs and private sector entities, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

63. **Mr. Karmakar** (Observer for the International Committee for Peace and Reconciliation) said that although the world had enough resources to lift all women and men out of extreme poverty, it persisted. Poverty affected women and men unevenly and therefore must be addressed through a gender lens. Of the more than 50 million refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons around the world, 80 per cent were women and children, making it essential to listen to the priorities of women and girls affected by forced displacement and migration. Women must be included in all decision-making processes that would affect their families and society as a whole. Human beings were responsible for social injustice, slavery, destruction of the environment, wars, poverty and economic disasters, and human beings should therefore also solve those problems. Poverty could only be eradicated if the poor played an active role; a wake-up call should be issued encouraging all to march forward; those who did not respond would be left behind.

64. **Mr. Jourdan** (Observer for the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development) said that his organization promoted the sustainable development of the Dominican Republic, specifically focusing on financing for development and innovative financing tools. It conducted several studies each year on the

impact of foreign investment. A major stumbling block to investment was the lack of a legal framework in some developing countries. Even when policy frameworks existed, the private sector was reluctant to invest in developing countries where there was a lack of transparency and corruption was prevalent. He asked the panellists to share best practices with regard to impactful investment, especially in the renewable energy industry, and to describe any existing policy frameworks that incentivised investment in that area.

65. **The President** questioned whether cash transfer schemes were compatible with the idea that it was better to teach a hungry person to catch fish than to give them a fish. He wondered whether other countries should be encouraged to establish cash disbursement programmes, or whether offering loans and allowing people to earn a living was a more effective means of eradicating poverty.

66. **Mr. Esteves** (BRICS Policy Centre) said that Brazil had both kinds of programme. Small farmers and cooperatives had access to credit from the Brazilian Development Bank and Banco do Brasil (Bank of Brazil). One facet of the problem was that although Brazil was one of the world's biggest exporters of agricultural products, between 70 and 75 per cent of food eaten in Brazil was produced by small farmers.

67. The cash transfer programme was conditional: for families to remain in it, children must be in school and vaccinated, and families must go to clinics regularly. The theory was that if people met the conditions, their capacity would be strengthened, and they would eventually be able to leave the programme. The cash transfer programme thus met both hungry people's immediate needs, and their longer-term need to develop skills that would get them out of poverty.

68. **The President** said that one of the conditions of the Pakistani conditional cash transfer programme was that cash must be disbursed to the lady of the house. In that way, the programme empowered women. Women were generally more responsive and responsible than men, and the programme was a success.

69. **Ms. Thompson** (Former Government Minister and Senator, Barbados, and former United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Coordinator for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development) said that in the majority of countries, like in Brazil, most of the food consumed was produced by smallholders. Women produced most of the food in the world, yet they were often barred from owning the land that they farmed, and frequently could not afford the food they produced. That was one reason

that a gender lens was needed when developing policies.

70. **Mr. Meza-Cuadra** (Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations) said that Peru's energy mainly came from hydroelectricity and fossil fuels. The Government's goal was to have a diversified matrix, but legislation was not yet favourable to foreign investment. Consequently, and also for technical reasons, foreign investment in other sources of energy was not significant, although there was great potential. Already in the north of the country there was some investment in oil, and in the Department of Tacna in the south, Enel Green Power, an Italian company, had made the first investment in solar energy. Renewable energy was important for Peru due to its high vulnerability to climate change; the Government was promoting all industries that would contribute to reducing its vulnerability, in particular through reforestation. Water was an important issue because a large part of the population did not have access to clean water. The Government was seeking to foster private investment in that area via a scheme called *Obras por Impuestos* (Works for taxes), which gave private companies the chance to take on projects, generally to build infrastructure, in exchange for lower taxes.

71. **Mr. Sareer** (Permanent Representative of the Maldives to the United Nations) said that his Government was also focused on renewable energy and addressing climate change. It currently spent 90 per cent of GDP on importing fossil fuels; unless it reduced its reliance the country could not proceed with economic development. The Government's eventual aim was to rely exclusively on renewable energy and it was on track to meet its first target, to have renewable energy account for 50 per cent of peak load energy consumption within three years.

72. International corporations in the hotel industry operated resorts on 110 of the nation's islands and many of them were taking the initiative to promote renewable energy. The Government had entered into various international and private sector partnerships with a view to converting the entire country into a renewable energy producer.

73. **Ms. Thompson** (Former Government Minister and Senator, Barbados, and former United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Coordinator for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development) said that investment in green energy was outstripping investment in traditional energy sources, a change that would enable developing countries with capacity for solar, wind and water

energy to cut spending on fossil fuels and use the revenue from investment in sustainable energy for development projects.

74. Her experience as a government minister had shown that supporting women's employment meant that their families did better: women put more of their income into family care than men did; children ate better and women applied learning within their households. A recent study conducted by Boston University identified the same benefits. The direct gains that came from investing socially and economically in women meant that targeted policy approaches and a gender lens were essential.

75. The Sustainable Development Goals were extremely diverse. She asked whether the panellists anticipated policy trade-offs in implementation of the new development platform, in which areas, and how nexus approaches could minimize trade-offs. She would like to know to what extent it was possible to bridge the gap in implementation by creating more nationally responsive structures. Lastly, she asked how, specifically, the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations system could assist countries in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

76. **Mr. Sambili** (Economics Department, Egerton University, and former Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya) said that insufficient resources would be the major hindrance to the implementation of all the necessary policy actions. Honest, rigorous prioritization on a continuing basis was needed to ensure that the policies with the greatest impact were adopted. While trade-offs were inevitable, if all stakeholders came together to agree on priorities, it would be possible to minimize the damage. The budget constraints meant that resources needed to be divided fairly through legitimate decision-making platforms.

77. With regard to national-level structures that bridged implementation gaps, the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations and governments must work together. The way forward involved sharing best practices, for instance through meetings of the Economic and Social Council, so that countries could benefit from others' experiences and best practices could be propagated throughout the world.

78. Many countries needed assistance most of all with data management and analytical capacity. The United Nations could usefully support data collection, which was key to targeting poverty reduction policies. Data must be accurate and disaggregated to inform policy-making. Through South-South and triangular cooperation, experts in different fields should share

their skills to support all countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

79. **Mr. Esteves** (BRICS Policy Centre) said, with regard to trade-offs, that it was problematic that Goal 17 had such weak indicators: it still only required 0.7 per cent of GDP in official development assistance, and did not mention automatic means of financing. It was worrisome that the international community continued to bet on private investment, through public-private partnerships. The 2030 Agenda was comprehensive, but Goal 17 simply insisted on growth, without proper consideration of the quality of private investment and the impact it would have on development. International regulation of taxation, which was not mentioned in the Goals, was essential to provide the resources needed for their implementation.

80. Data was critical for the development of responsive policies to bridge gaps. Brazil had taken huge strides in overcoming poverty: data showed that in 2000, only 10 per cent of its population had earned above \$ 1.25 a day, while in 2014 only 0.86 per cent had earned less than \$ 1.25. The key to such success had been registering families and carefully managing data. Good knowledge management systems must be in place for intersectoral policies to be implemented.

81. The United Nations had the capacity to disseminate development policies around the world. Dialogue between countries mediated by international organizations helped to bridge the gap between experiences and to foster endogenous processes.

82. **Mr. Simanainen** (Social Security Institution, Finland) said that there would always be trade-offs between policy goals, and it was necessary to prioritize. When experimenting with policies, it was necessary to have a clear idea of the policy goals in order to develop a good research design.

83. The issue of responsive policies and data management related to the basic income experiment being conducted in Finland. The object of the experiment was to find out how providing a basic income affected employment, but in the future it might be possible to answer interesting new questions using the data from the experiment, which would be made available to future research groups.

84. The Economic and Social Council could play a useful role for countries like Finland by continuing to organize more such forums which allowed countries to share national experiences.

85. **Mr. Cadena** (Observer for Ecuador) said that international cooperation in tax systems was indeed important in supporting national development projects.

For middle-income countries tax cooperation was fundamental for the implementation of national programmes and the 2030 Agenda.

86. **Mr. Meza-Cuadra** (Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations) said that economic growth accompanied by distributive, targeted policies designed to close the gaps would ensure that all of society was lifted out of poverty. There must be a level playing field in order for the most vulnerable to benefit from growth. Creating that environment meant building new infrastructure, such as roads and telephone and broadband networks.

87. The 2030 Agenda would be difficult to implement. Latin American governments and ministries were not ready to work in the coordinated way it required, and did not yet have all the requisite data, but they were making progress. The United Nations system could help by specifically supporting the most vulnerable. For middle-income countries, that meant not only cash transfer programmes, but also more targeted programmes, such as programmes to assist Quechua speakers or rural women; or to use technology to include vulnerable groups.

88. **Mr. Sareer** (Permanent Representative of the Maldives to the United Nations) said that it was important to abandon the silo approach and look at interlinkages between the Sustainable Development Goals: viewing issues relating to water, energy, food and climate change as a nexus was crucial for success. The United Nations development system needed to work together. Coherence and coordination between the Secretariat and staff in the field, as well as between different United Nations entities, must become a reality.

89. Clear partnerships were needed between governments, the private sector, civil society, international financial institutions and United Nations agencies in order to implement the 2030 Agenda. Poverty eradication would be impossible if they were not all on the same page. Lastly, every investment in climate change mitigation was an investment in poverty eradication.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

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Integration segment

Summary record of the 26th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 9 May 2017, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Munir (Vice-President) (Pakistan)

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In the absence of Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Mr. Munir (Pakistan), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 8: Integration segment (continued)

Panel discussion: "Policy instruments for an integrated approach to poverty eradication"

1. **Mr. Reddy** (Associate Professor of Economics, New School for Social Research), moderator, said that it was too often the case that causal interdependencies between different aspects of development were discovered after the fact. Examples included the connection between child mortality and fertility rates, and the relationship between education of mothers and child health. In an age where expertise was often devalued, it was important to recognize how awareness of such links could enhance the design of policies and the deployment of instruments. At the same time, it was important for such policies and instruments to be rooted in democratic consensus.

2. **Ms. Angell-Hanson** (Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations Office at Vienna; and Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixtieth session), panellist, said that a good example of causal interdependency was the link between poverty and drugs, which had been highlighted at the sixtieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held in Vienna in March 2017. That event had been a milestone in following up the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in April 2014.

3. In 2015, some quarter of a billion people had used drugs, and 29 million had suffered from drug disorders. Criminal profits from drugs were over \$2 trillion – some \$28 billion in the Western Balkans alone. Those funds allowed the drug dealers to buy judges, police officers and politicians, posing a formidable obstacle to progress. The nexus of drugs, transnational organized crime and terrorism would be the topic of the next World Drug Report to be published in June 2017.

4. Poverty and social disadvantage were high risk factors for drug use. Women were particularly vulnerable, but often avoided getting help out of fear of losing their children. There was a relatively high incidence of HIV-AIDS and hepatitis among drug users. She noted a recent report from Belarus that showed clearly that gearing HIV-AIDS measures towards the drug-injecting population produced measurable results.

5. Anti-drug efforts were badly underfunded. UNODC had been forced to close some of its projects in prisons, and was only able to respond to a fraction of the financing requests it received. Almost one third of anti-drug financing in developing countries was provided by the countries themselves. The Council could play a pivotal role in enhancing cooperation among agencies in to make more resources available.

6. **Mr. Kirkpatrick** (Director, United Nations Global Pulse), panellist, accompanying his remarks with a digital slide presentation, said that Global Pulse was trying to harness big data in the service of development goals. In recent times, a data revolution had been produced by the ubiquity of digital technology and social media, which allowed people to generate huge amounts of useful data simply by going about their lives.

7. Vast amounts of data on population movements could be harvested by tracking mobile phones, which could be used, inter alia, to identify areas at risk for the spread of disease. It had also been discovered that spending on mobile phone credits tracked overall household consumption with almost 90 per cent accuracy. Data on food price rises could be gleaned from complaints posted on Twitter. Pockets of poverty could be identified by software that used satellite photographs to distinguish between areas where relatively inexpensive thatched rooves were common and areas where more expensive metal roofing materials were used. After Hurricane Odile struck the west coast of Mexico, dips and rises in credit card transactions were used not only to measure economic impacts but also to gauge recovery rates in different areas. Even where large numbers of people were not online, there were ways to harvest data. For example, analysis of the frequency of certain words and phrases used on talk radio in Uganda had proven useful in identifying people's concerns.

8. Many large companies used data mining for commercial purposes, but many were also willing to put their data to use in the service of the Sustainable Development Goals. Much like nuclear energy, big data could be used for good or ill. He stressed that Global Pulse worked only with anonymized data. It was essential to keep personal information separate from useful data. Regulation had not yet caught up with the power of big data. A better understanding of the uses and implications of big data was needed to make the best use of data without sacrificing privacy.

9. **Ms. Elhelaly** (Former Director-General, Social Fund for Development; and Managing Director, Amwal Financial Investments, Egypt), panellist, accompanying

her remarks with a digital slide presentation, said that poverty was the deadliest weapon of mass destruction. In Egypt, one third of people were classified as poor. They depended on social safety nets to meet their basic food and housing needs. Following the model used in Brazil, Egypt's Ministry of Social Solidarity had applied the principle of conditionality to cash transfers for schoolchildren and child health. Other social protection programmes, notably those targeted at the elderly and persons with disabilities, were unconditional. Social safety net programmes were mindful of the goals of financial inclusion and women's empowerment.

10. Labour-intensive public works project that provided temporary jobs could be helpful. However, microfinance was the key to poverty alleviation and job creation. Transferring economic enterprises from the informal sector to the formal sector had great potential to contribute to a country's gross domestic product. The United Nations played a major role in creating public-private synergies and promoting corporate social responsibility. Developing countries needed more assistance from developed countries in order to realize the goal of leaving no one behind.

11. **Mr. Sultan-Khan** (Chairman, Aga Khan Rural Support Programmes Network, Pakistan), panellist, said that his organization had improved the lives of hundreds of millions of poor people. The key to its success was interaction with local communities. Pre-packaged blueprints for development often had nothing in common with what communities wanted. Local variations demanded consultation and dialogue at the household level in order to unleash the potential that already existed.

12. As early as 1991, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation had recommended that social mobilization should be the centrepiece of all poverty reduction strategies, and had cited his organization as a model. The existing political and administrative pillars of the State did not have the capacity to reach down to the community level. For that, a third socioeconomic pillar needed to be activated to organize neighbourhoods and villages. Donors and non-governmental organizations did not have the resources to do that by themselves; robust Government financing was necessary. A good example was provided by development initiatives in the Indian State of Andhra Pradesh, where the Indian Government's National Rural Livelihood Mission had provided an outlay of over \$5 billion. Involving local communities was a time-tested tool that was essential to the success of development assistance programmes.

13. **Mr. Ríos Sánchez** (Observer for Mexico), welcoming the presence on the panel of the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixtieth session, said that the participation of Vienna-based United Nations bodies in discussions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council would help to break down silos. The special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016 had provided a new paradigm for the international community to address that problem by taking into account human rights considerations and the gender perspective. That paradigm should form the basis for multilateral dialogue on the question in the future. It would also be important to establish links between multilateral drug policies and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to use appropriate statistical data and indicators to address the social aspects of the issue. In that connection, his country's National Institute of Statistics and Geography was working with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to develop a conceptual framework that would provide a modern and progressive understanding of the issues associated with the world drug problem.

14. **Ms. Elhelaly** (former Director-General, Social Fund for Development; and Managing Director, Amwal Financial Investments, Egypt), in response to a question from the President concerning the comparative advantages of microfinance programmes and direct cash transfers, said that those initiatives were aimed at distinct populations. Unconditional cash transfers were intended for senior citizens and persons with disabilities who were unable to work. Conditional cash transfers were designed to promote development in a number of ways, such as by providing an incentive for parents to send their children to school or take them for medical check-ups. In contrast, microfinance and entrepreneurship programmes were job creation initiatives. Microfinance programmes were aimed at helping people, in particular women heads of household, to increase their household income. Such programmes had a particularly significant impact on women living in rural areas. Programmes to promote entrepreneurship, which generally involved the provision of loans, technical assistance, business advice and opportunities to develop business skills, were geared more towards youth. They were an extremely useful tool in her country, where the number of young people graduating from university each year far outweighed the number of existing jobs available to them in the private and public sectors.

15. **Mr. Kirkpatrick** (Director, United Nations Global Pulse), said that there was a significant but unexplored opportunity to use data produced as a

by-product of the use of electronic cash transfer services to identify risks that could undermine development projects. For example, it would be possible to use such data to examine the relationship between drought and microfinance loan defaults. Big data could also provide an insight into the effectiveness of cash transfers in different communities. For instance, comparing how much mobile phone credit persons in a particular community had before they started receiving cash transfers and after they had been receiving them for some time could indicate whether or not they were financially better off. Partnerships with the private sector would be required to make sure that such data was accessed in a safe and responsible manner.

16. **Ms. Angell-Hansen** (Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations Office at Vienna and Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixtieth session) said that social protection was key to preventing drug abuse, in particular for young people, men, migrants and refugees in protracted situations. With regard to drug production, initiatives involving the private sector to promote the cultivation of alternative crops were already in place in countries such as Colombia. It was important to note that abuse was not the only aspect of the drug problem. Too little attention was given to the situation of the millions of people in developing countries who were dying of cancer and other painful diseases without access to basic opioid pain medications.

17. **Mr. Sultan Khan** (Chair, Rural Support Programmes Network, Pakistan) said that social mobilization was the first step towards helping people lift themselves out of poverty. Members of the community were best placed to know what they needed to improve their situation. Arrangements such as community-based revolving investment funds, whereby the group of participants agreed on the contribution that each household would make and jointly assessed the feasibility of plans based on their intimate knowledge of the local context, were more effective than microfinance programmes for some populations, in particular those with very low incomes to whom the interest payable on a microfinance loan would seem very high. Cash transfers alone were not an effective means of poverty eradication. His country's income support programme paid out billions of rupees to 5.3 million beneficiaries every year, but 85 per cent of that cash was spent on consumable goods. It was much more effective to provide people with the means to lift themselves out of poverty by linking cash grants to microinvestment plans.

18. **Mr. Kirkpatrick** (Director, United Nations Global Pulse), said that while the data needed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals had been produced by Governments, owned by Governments and used by Governments, the data that would be required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals was produced by the general public, often without their knowledge, collected in real time by machines and owned by corporations. That was a very fragmented landscape in which to implement a challenging agenda in a rapidly changing world. It would be necessary to make it easier to share data and to build national capacities to use that information. Data should be used not simply to measure progress but also as a basis for adapting policies to improve results. To that end, policies should become more flexible, agile, adaptive and responsive to new information.

19. *A short video on the Egyptian organization Amwal Financial Investments was shown.*

20. **Ms. Elhelaly** (former Director-General, Social Fund for Development; and Managing Director, Amwal Financial Investments, Egypt) said that social safety nets were essential for eradicating poverty. The optimization of synergies and complementarities within the United Nations system, the provision of official development assistance to developing countries and measures to ensure that no one was left behind were also important.

General debate (continued)

21. **Mr. Liu Jieyi** (China) said that the international community should step up its efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda in a number of areas. All actors, including the United Nations and the World Bank, should work together to optimize the global development partnership, enhance North-South and South-South cooperation and increase the urgency of poverty eradication efforts. Furthermore, cooperation on poverty reduction and development should be strengthened by focusing on win-win cooperation. That would involve supporting developing countries by taking into account their financing needs, providing the promised official development assistance, enhancing capacity-building, providing debt relief and facilitating their access to markets. The international community should support developing countries in following their chosen paths to development and help them use their own national resources for development by providing them with assistance in the areas of industry, agriculture, human resources, green energy and environmental protection, as appropriate. The international development environment should be improved through the establishment and maintenance

of an open world economy, a fair, equitable, inclusive and orderly global economic and financial system and an enabling external environment for developing countries.

22. Over the past three decades, his country had established its own path towards poverty reduction. Its economic and poverty-reduction policies had resulted in economic growth and drastically decreased poverty rates. That progress had been achieved as a result of the strong leadership role played by the Government, the inclusion of poverty reduction as part of the national development strategy and efforts to enhance the development capacity of persons living in poverty. His country's development strategy was based on a whole-of-society approach involving the Government, the people and the market. It included policies to support rural areas and the agricultural industry in general and policies specifically targeting the poor. Measures had been taken to support production and employment, provide relocation and resettlement assistance and reduce poverty through ecological protection and education. As a result of his Government's efforts, the number of people living in poverty in rural areas had been reduced by more than 700 million and now stood at around 43 million. By 2020, no one in China would be living in poverty.

23. China had been supporting international development for over 60 years. It had provided nearly 400 billion yuan to 166 countries and international organizations, sent more than 600,000 aid workers abroad and provided medical assistance to 69 countries. It had also unconditionally cancelled a significant amount of debt owed by heavily indebted poor countries and less developed countries. In 2015 his Government had announced its plans to establish an assistance fund for South-South cooperation, increase its investment in less developed countries to \$12 billion by 2030 and implement projects in the areas of poverty eradication, agriculture, trade facilitation, training and education. His country stood ready to work with the international community to bring about universal development and eradicate poverty.

24. **Mr. Chandrtri** (Observer for Thailand) said that it was crucial for Governments to recognize the multidimensional nature of poverty, which included a lack of employment, opportunities and the inability to access to basic services, in order to combat poverty in a comprehensive and effective manner. His Government had mainstreamed poverty eradication in its 20-year national economic and social development strategy. Its policies and programmes included measures to provide assistance and subsidies for the

poor, create jobs, promote sustainable land ownership and provide social services such as housing, education and health care, with a focus on persons with disabilities, the elderly and other vulnerable populations. Disaster risk management programmes were also in place. As a result of those initiatives, the number of people living in poverty in the country had fallen from 57 per cent in 1990 to 10.5 per cent in 2014.

25. Achieving poverty eradication would require transforming not only systems, but also mindsets. For four decades, his country had been implementing an approach that had helped people escape the cycle of poverty by teaching them to follow the principles of moderation, resilience and reasonableness, guided by knowledge and moral considerations. His Government was already sharing its approach with interested States in the region and was eager to share it with the international community more broadly. It remained committed to working with all stakeholders in efforts to eradicate poverty around the world by 2030.

26. **Mr. Ntonga** (Zimbabwe) said that poverty eradication was the greatest challenge of the times. In addition to its commitments under the various global instruments and the African Union's Agenda 2063, his Government had adopted a national agenda for sustainable socioeconomic transformation structured around four pillars: food security and nutrition; social services and poverty eradication; infrastructure and utilities; and value addition and beneficiation in productive sectors.

27. Achieving global, regional and national development goals would require integrated policies to address the multifaceted and multidimensional nature of poverty. Sustainable Development Goal 1, on poverty eradication, could not be achieved unless the vast majority of the other Goals were also achieved. Governments must demonstrate strong leadership and transparency in their utilization of national resources. The approach to development should be inclusive, involve strategic and multi-stakeholder partnerships and place an emphasis on improving education, putting an end to the informal labour market, eliminating hunger and malnutrition, establishing social safety nets, mainstreaming the gender perspective and empowering women and girls. The economies of developing countries must be made less susceptible to boom and bust cycles resulting from fluctuating commodity prices by maximizing the potential of those countries' natural resources and agricultural potential. At the organizational level, the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process should be aligned with national efforts. More broadly, it was

important to make sure that the United Nations development system and other United Nations entities were fit for purpose. He hoped that efforts were underway to locate the vast amounts of resources currently invested in low-return bonds, which had been mentioned during the high-level Sustainable Development Goals Financing Lab, so that developing countries could benefit from those funds.

26. Mr. Mikheyeff (Observer for Azerbaijan) said that extreme poverty was an affront to human dignity. With more than 800 million people still living in extreme poverty and 20 million currently facing starvation, there was no excuse for inaction or indifference. His country had recently pledged to make financial contributions to four countries facing famine. However, while funding was necessary to mitigate the crisis, the only way to end such suffering in the long term was by ending the armed conflicts that were its underlying cause.

28. General Assembly resolution 71/245 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review provided solid guidance on aligning the work of the United Nations development system with national efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. His delegation also welcomed the plans to align the work of the General Assembly with the Agenda.

30. The overarching aim of his country's economic policy was to improve the socioeconomic situation its citizens. His Government had incorporated the Sustainable Development Goals and the related targets in its national plans and strategies and established a National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development. It had diversified the national economy by building industrial parks in different regions of the country, increasing public spending on agriculture and other rural economic activities, creating sustainable and decent employment opportunities, promoting entrepreneurship, introducing social protection for low-income families and building or renovating 3,000 schools and 600 hospitals and health centres. Furthermore, 250,000 internally displaced persons had been provided with homes as part of an ongoing programme. As a result of those efforts, poverty and unemployment were in decline. His country was committed to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and eradicating the scourge of poverty.

The meeting rose at 3 p.m.